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भाग सहा

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संसदेचे अधिनियम व राष्ट्रपतींनी प्रख्यापित केलेले अध्यादेश

अनुक्रमणिका

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LAW AND JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT

Madam Cama Marg, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Mantralaya,
Mumbai 400 032, dated the 3rd October 2015.

No. 1654/B.—The following Acts of Parliament are hereby re-published for general information :—

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 11th March 2015/Phalguna 20, 1936 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 10th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

(No. 1 of 2015)

[10th March 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 6th day of January, 2015.

2. Amendment of section 2.—In the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 2, in sub-section (1), for clause (ee), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

‘(ee) “Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder” means a person registered as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder by the Central Government under section 7A ;’.

3. Amendment of section 5.—In the principal Act, in section 5,—

(i) in sub-section (1),—

(a) in clause (f), for the words “has been residing in India for one year”, the words “is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months” shall be substituted ;

(b) in clause (g),—

(A) for the words “Overseas Citizen of India”, the words “Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder” shall be substituted ;

(B) for the words “has been residing in India for one year”, the words “is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months” shall be substituted ;

(ii) after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(1A) The Central Government, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, may after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months, specified in clauses (f) and (g) and clause (i) of *Explanation 1* of sub-section (1), up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.”.

4. Substitution of new sections for sections 7A, 7B, 7C and section 7D.—In the principal Act, for sections 7A, 7B, 7C and section 7D, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“7A. Registration of Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.—(1) The Central Government may, subject to such conditions, restrictions and manner as may be prescribed, on an application made in this behalf, register as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder—

(a) any person of full age and capacity,—

(i) who is a citizen of another country, but was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after the commencement of the Constitution ; or

(ii) who is a citizen of another country, but was eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of the commencement of the Constitution ; or

(iii) who is a citizen of another country, but belonged to a territory that became part of India after the 15th day of August, 1947 ; or

(iv) who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen ; or

(b) a person, who is a minor child of a person mentioned in clause (a) ; or

(c) a person, who is a minor child, and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India; or

(d) spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder registered under section 7A and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application under this section :

Provided that for the eligibility for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, such spouse shall be subjected to prior security clearance by a competent authority in India :

Provided further that no person, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under this sub-section.

(2) The Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, specify the date from which the existing Persons of Indian Origin Cardholders shall be deemed to be Overseas Citizens of India Cardholders.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, "Persons of Indian Origin Cardholders" means the persons registered as such under notification number 26011/4/98 F.I., dated the 19th August 2002, issued by the Central Government in this regard.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Central Government may, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, after recording the circumstances in writing, register a person as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

7B. *Conferment of rights on Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be entitled to such rights, other than the rights specified under sub-section (2), as the Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, specify in this behalf.

(2) An Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India—

(a) under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment ;

(b) under article 58 of the Constitution for election as President ;

(c) under article 66 of the Constitution for election as Vice-President ;

(d) under article 124 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court ;

(e) under article 217 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the High Court ;

(f) under section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950(43 of 1950) in regard to registration as a voter ;

(g) under sections 3 and 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951(43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States, as the case may be ;

(h) under sections 5, 5A and section 6 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council, as the case may be, of a State ;

(i) for appointment to public services and posts in connection with affairs of the Union or of any State except for appointment in such services and posts as the Central Government may, by special order in that behalf, specify.

(3) Every notification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

7C. Renunciation of Overseas of Citizen of India Card.—(1) If any Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder of full age and capacity makes in prescribed manner a declaration renouncing the Card registering him as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, the declaration shall be registered by the Central Government, and upon such registration, that person shall cease to be an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

(2) Where a person ceases to be an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under sub-section (1), the spouse of foreign origin of that person, who has obtained Overseas Citizen of India Card under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 7A, and every minor child of that person registered as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall thereupon cease to be an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

7D. Cancellation of registration as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.—The Central Government may, by order, cancel the registration granted under sub-section (1) of section 7A, if it is satisfied that—

(a) the registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact ; or

(b) the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has shown disaffection towards the Constitution, as by law established ; or

(c) the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has, during any war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in, or associated with, any business or commercial activity that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war ; or

(d) the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has, within five years after registration under sub-section (1) of section 7A, been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years ; or

(e) it is necessary so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interests of the general public ; or

(f) the marriage of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, who has obtained such Card under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 7A,—

(i) has been dissolved by a competent court of law or otherwise ; or

(ii) has not been dissolved but, during the subsistence of such marriage, he has solemnised marriage with any other person.”.

5. Amendment of section 18.—In the principal Act, in section 18, in sub-section (2), after clause (ee), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“(eea) the conditions and the manner subject to which a person may be registered as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under sub-section (1) of section 7A ;

(eeb) the manner of making declaration for renunciation of Overseas Citizen of India Card under sub-section (1) of section 7C ;”.

6. Amendment of Third Schedule.—In the principal Act, in the Third Schedule, in clause (c), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that if the Central Government is satisfied that special circumstances exist, it may, after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.”.

7. Repeal and savings.—(1) The Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 (Ord. 1 of 2015) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 14th March 2015/Phalguna 23, 1936 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 13th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information :—

THE PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS)
AMENDMENT ACT, 2015

(No. 2 of 2015)

[13th March 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Act, 2015.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

2. *Amendment of section 2.*—In the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 (40 of 1971) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 2, in clause (e), in sub-clause (2),—

(A) in item (i), for the words and figures “the Companies Act, 1956” (1 of 1956), the words and figures “the Companies Act, 2013” (18 of 2013) shall be substituted ;

(B) in item (ii), for the words and figures “the Companies Act, 1956”, (1 of 1956) the words and figures “the Companies Act, 2013” (18 of 2013) shall be substituted ;

(C) for item (iii), the following items shall be substituted, namely :—

‘(iii) any company as defined in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) in which not less than fifty-one per cent, of the paid up capital is held partly by the Central Government and partly by one or more State Governments and includes a company which is a subsidiary (within the meaning of that Act) of the first-mentioned company and which carries on the business of public transport including metro railway.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this item, “metro railway” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002 (60 of 2002) ;

(iiia) any University established or incorporated by any Central Act,’ ;

(D) for item (v), the following item shall be substituted, namely :—

“(v) any Board of Trustees or any successor company constituted under or referred to in the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 (38 of 1963) ;” ;

(E) in sub-clause (3),—

(a) in item (i), for the words “Municipal Corporation”, the words, brackets and figures “Council as defined in clause (9) of section 2 of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994 (44 of 1994) or Corporation or Corporations notified under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957,” (66 of 1957) shall be substituted ;

(b) after item (iii), the following item shall be inserted, namely :—

‘(iv) any premises belonging to, or taken on lease by, or on behalf of any Government company as defined in clause (45) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013).

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the expression, “State Government” occurring in clause (45) of the said section shall mean the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.’

(F) in clause (fa),—

(a) in sub-clause (ii), after the words, brackets and figures “in item (i) of sub-clause (2)”, the words, brackets and figures “and in item (iv) of sub-clause (3)” shall be inserted ;

(b) in sub-clause (v), for the word “Corporation”, the words “Council, Corporation or Corporations” shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 4.—In section 4 of the principal Act,—

(a) for sub-section (1), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) If the estate officer has information that any person is in unauthorised occupation of any public premises and that he should be evicted, the estate officer shall issue in the manner hereinafter provided a notice in writing within seven working days from the date of receipt of the information regarding the unauthorised occupation calling upon the person concerned to show cause why an order of eviction should not be made.

(1A) If the estate officer knows or has reasons to believe that any person is in unauthorised occupation of the public premises, then, without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), he shall forthwith issue a notice in writing calling upon the person concerned to show cause why an order of eviction should not be made.

(1B) Any delay in issuing a notice referred to in sub-sections (1) and (1A) shall not vitiate the proceedings under this Act.” ;

(b) in sub-section (2), in clause (b), in sub-clause (i), for the words “earlier than”, the words “later than” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 5.—In section 5 of the principal Act,—

(a) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) If, after considering the cause, if any, shown by any person in pursuance of a notice under section 4 and any evidence produced by him in support of the same and after personal hearing, if any, given under sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 4, the estate officer is satisfied that the public premises are in unauthorised occupation, the estate officer shall make an order of eviction, for reasons to be recorded therein, directing that the public premises shall be vacated, on such date as may be specified in the order but not later than fifteen days from the date of the order, by all persons who may be in occupation thereof or any part thereof, and cause a copy of the order to be affixed on the outer door or some other conspicuous part of the public premises :

Provided that every order under this sub-section shall be made by the estate officer as expeditiously as possible and all endeavour shall be made by him to issue the order within fifteen days of the date specified in the notice under sub-section (1) or sub-section (1A), as the case may be, of section 4.” ;

(b) after sub-section (2), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that if the estate officer is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that there exists any compelling reason which prevents the person from vacating the premises within fifteen days, the estate officer may grant another fifteen days from the date of expiry of the order under sub-section (1) to the person to vacate the premises.”.

5. Amendment of section 7.—In section 7 of the principal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (2A), for the words “simple interest”, the words “compound interest” shall be substituted ;

(b) in sub-section (3), for the words “within such time as may be specified in the notice”, the words “within seven days from the date of issue thereof” shall be substituted ;

(c) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(4) Every order under this section shall be made by the estate officer as expeditiously as possible and all endeavour shall be made by him to issue the order within fifteen days of the date specified in the notice.”.

6. Amendment of section 9.—In section 9 of the principal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (2), for the proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely :—

“Provided that the appellate officer may entertain the appeal in exceptional cases after the expiry of the said period, if he is satisfied for reasons to be recorded in writing that there was compelling reasons which prevented the person from filing the appeal in time.”;

(b) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(4) Every appeal under this section shall be disposed of by the appellate officer as expeditiously as possible and every endeavour shall be made to dispose of the appeal finally within one month from the date of filing the appeal, after providing the parties an opportunity of being heard.”.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 20th March 2015/Phalguna 29, 1936 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 19th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

(No. 3 of 2015)

[19th March 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 7th day of January, 2015.

2. Insertion of new section 2A.—In the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988(59 of 1988) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), after section 2, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

‘2A. E-cart and e-rickshaw.—(1) Save as otherwise provided in the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 and sub-section (10) of section 9, the provisions of this Act shall apply to e-cart and e-rickshaw.

(2) For the purposes of this section, “e-cart or e-rickshaw” means a special purpose battery powered vehicle of power not exceeding 4000 watts, having three wheels for carrying goods or passengers, as the case may be, for hire or reward, manufactured, constructed or adapted, equipped and maintained in accordance with such specifications, as may be prescribed in this behalf.’

3. Amendment of section 7.—In the principal Act, in section 7, in sub-section (1), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to an e-cart or e-rickshaw.”

4. Amendment of section 9.—In the principal Act, in section 9, after sub-section (9), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(10) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the driving licence to drive e-cart or e-rickshaw shall be issued in such manner and subject to such conditions, as may be prescribed.”

5. Amendment of section 27.—In the principal Act, in section 27,—

(i) clause (a) shall be renumbered as clause (aa) thereof and before clause (aa) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(a) specifications relating to e-cart and e-rickshaw under sub-section (2) of section 2A ;” ;

(ii) after clause (f), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(ff) the manner and the conditions subject to which the driving licence may be issued under sub-section (10) of section 9 ;”.

6. Repeal and saving.—(1) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015, (Ord. 2 of 2015) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 23rd March 2015/Chaitra 2, 1937 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 20th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

(No. 4 of 2015)

[20th March 2015]

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in the States of Haryana, Karnataka and Odisha and the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. Short title.—This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 2015.

2. Amendment of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.—In the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (C.O. 19),—

(a) in PART V.—*Haryana*, for entry 19, substitute,—

“19. Kabirpanthi, Julaha, Kabirpanthi Julaha” ;

(b) in PART VII.—*Karnataka*, for entry 23, substitute,—

“23. Bhovi, Od, Odde, Vaddar, Waddar, Voddar, Woddar, Bovi (Non-Besta), Kalluvaddar, Mannuvaddar” ;

(c) in PART XIII.—*Odisha*,—

(i) for entries 26 and 27, substitute,—

“26. Dhoba, Dhobi, Rajak, Rajaka

27. Dom, Dombo, Duria Dom, Adhuria Dom, Adhuria Domb” ;

(ii) for entries 44, 45 and 46, substitute,—

“44. Katia, Khatia

45. Kela, Sapua Kela, Nalua Kela, Sabakhia Kela, Matia Kela, Gaudia Kela

46. Khadala, Khadal, Khodal” ;

(iii) for entry 91, substitute,—

“91. Turi, Betra” ;

(d) in PART XXIV.—*Uttaranchal*, for “Uttaranchal”, substitute, “Uttarakhand”.

3. Amendment of the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962.—In the Schedule to the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, (C.O. 64) for entry 2, substitute,—

“2. Chamar, Rohit.”.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 23rd March 2015/Chaitra 2,1937 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 20th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information :—

THE INSURANCE LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

(No. 5 OF 2015)

[20th March 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and to amend the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 26th day of December, 2014.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS TO THE INSURANCE ACT, 1938

2. *Substitution of references to certain expressions by certain other expressions.*—In the Insurance Act, 1938 (4 of 1938) (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the Insurance Act), throughout the Act,—

(a) for the words and figures “the Indian Companies Act, 1913”, (7 of 1913) wherever they occur, the words and figures “the Companies Act, 2013” (18 of 2013) shall be substituted ;

(b) for the words and figures “the Companies Act, 1956”, (1 of 1956) wherever they occur, the words and figures “the Companies Act, 2013” (18 of 2013) shall be substituted.

3. *Amendment of section 2.*—In section 2 of the Insurance Act,—

‘(i) for clauses (1) and (1A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely :—

‘(1) “actuary” means an actuary as defined in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Actuaries Act, 2006 ; (35 of 2006)

(1A) “Authority” means the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India established under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (41 of 1999) ;’ ;

(ii) clause (5A) shall be omitted ;

(iii) after clause (6B), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

‘(6C) “health insurance business” means the effecting of contracts which provide for sickness benefits or medical, surgical or hospital expense benefits, whether in-patient or out-patient travel cover and personal accident cover ;’ ;

(iv) for clause (7A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

‘(7A) “Indian insurance company” means any insurer, being a company which is limited by shares, and,—

(a) which is formed and registered under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) as a public company or is converted into such a company within one year of the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 ;

(b) in which the aggregate holdings of equity shares by foreign investors, including portfolio investors, do not exceed forty-nine per cent, of the paid up equity capital of such Indian insurance company, which is Indian owned and controlled, in such manner as may be prescribed.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-clause, the expression “control” shall include the right to appoint a majority of the directors or to control the management or policy decisions including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholders agreements or voting agreements ;

(c) whose sole purpose is to carry on life insurance business or general insurance business or re-insurance business or health insurance business ;’ ;

(v) clause (8) shall be omitted ;

(vi) in clause (8A),—

(I) for sub-clause (b), the following sub-clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(b) having a minimum paid-up capital of rupees one hundred crore in case of life insurance business, general insurance business and health insurance business ;” ;

(II) in sub-clause (d), after the words “general insurance business”, the words “or health insurance business” shall be inserted ;

(vii) for clause (9), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(9) “insurer” means—

(a) an Indian Insurance Company, or

(b) a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to carry on insurance business, or

(c) an insurance co-operative society, or

(d) a foreign company engaged in re-insurance business through a branch established in India.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-clause, the expression “foreign company” shall mean a company or body established or incorporated under a law of any country outside India and includes Lloyd’s established under the Lloyd’s Act, 1871 (United Kingdom) or any of its Members ;’ ;

(viii) in clause (10), the words and figures “licensed under section 42” shall be omitted ;

(ix) in clause (11), in sub-clause (c), for the words “annuities payable out of any fund”, the words “benefit payable out of any fund” shall be substituted ;

(x) clauses (12), (13) and (15) shall be omitted ;

(xi) in clause (16), for the words, brackets, figures and letter “clauses (13) and (13A) of section 2 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913” (7 of 1913), the words, brackets and figures “clause (68) and clause (72) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013” (18 of 2013) shall be substituted ;

(xii) after clause (16), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“(16A) “regulations” means the regulations framed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 ; (41 of 1999)

(16B) “re-insurance” means the insurance of part of one insurer’s risk by another insurer who accepts the risk for a mutually acceptable premium ;

(16C) “Securities Appellate Tribunal” means the Securities Appellate Tribunal established under section 15K of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992) ;’ ;

(xiii) clause (17) shall be omitted.

4. *Insertion of new section 2CB.*—After section 2CA of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“**2CB.** *Properties in India not to be insured with foreign insurers except with the permission of Authority.*—(1) No person shall take out or renew any policy of insurance in respect of any property in India or any ship or other vessel or aircraft registered in India with an insurer whose principal place of business is outside India save with the prior permission of the Authority.

(2) If any person contravenes the provision of sub-section (1), he shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to five crore rupees.”.

5. *Omission of section 2E.*—Section 2E of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

6. *Amendment of section 3.*—In section 3 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) Every application for registration shall be made in such manner and shall be accompanied by such documents as may be specified by the regulations.” ;

(ii) in sub-section (2A), in clause (d), for the figures, letter and word “5,31A and 32”, the figures, word and letter “5 and 31A” shall be substituted ;

(iii) for sub-section (2C), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2C) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Authority refusing registration may, within thirty days from the date on which a copy of the decision is received by him, appeal to the Securities Appellate Tribunal.” ;

(iv) sub-section (2D) shall be omitted ;

(v) for sub-sections (3), (4), (5) and (5A), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“(3) In the case of any insurer having joint venture with a person having its principal place of business domiciled outside India or any insurer as defined in sub-clause (d) of clause (9) of section 2, the Authority may withhold registration already made if it is satisfied that in the country in which such person has been debarred by law or practice of that country to carry on insurance business.

(4) The Authority may suspend or cancel the registration of an insurer either wholly or in so far as it relates to a particular class of insurance business, as the case may be,—

(a) if the insurer fails, at any time, to comply with the provisions of section 64VA as to the excess of the value of his assets over the amount of his liabilities, or

(b) if the insurer is in liquidation or is adjudged as an insolvent, or

(c) if the business or a class of the business of the insurer has been transferred to any person or has been transferred to or amalgamated with the business of any other insurer without the approval of the Authority, or

(d) if the insurer makes default in complying with, or acts in contravention of, any requirement of this Act or of any rule or any regulation or order made or, any direction issued thereunder, or

(e) if the Authority has reason to believe that any claim upon the insurer arising in India under any policy of insurance remains unpaid for three months after final judgment in regular court of law, or

(f) if the insurer carries on any business other than insurance business or any prescribed business, or

(g) if the insurer makes a default in complying with any direction issued or order made, as the case may be, by the Authority under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, (41 of 1999) or

(h) if the insurer makes a default in complying with, or acts in contravention of, any requirement of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) or the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 (57 of 1972) or the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) or the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, (15 of 2002) or

(i) if the insurer fails to pay the annual fee required under section 3A, or

(j) if the insurer is convicted for an offence under any law for the time being in force, or

(k) if the insurer being a co-operative society set up under the relevant State laws or, as the case may be, the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 (39 of 2002), contravenes the provisions of law as may be applicable to the insurer.

(5) When the Authority suspends or cancels any registration under clause (a), clause (d), clause (e), clause (f), clause (g) or clause (i) of sub-section (4), it shall give notice in writing to the insurer of its decision, and the decision shall take effect on such date as it may specify in that behalf in the notice, such date not being less than one month not more than two months from the date of the receipt of the notice in the ordinary course of transmission.

(5A) When the Authority suspends or cancels any registration under clause (b), (c), (j) or (k) of sub-section (4), the suspension or cancellation, as the case may be, shall take effect on the date on which notice of the order of suspension or cancellation is served on the insurer” ;

(vi) for sub-section (5C), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(5C) Where a registration is suspended or cancelled under clause (a), clause (d), clause (e), clause (f), clause (g) or clause (i) of sub-section (4), the Authority may at its discretion revive the registration, if the insurer within six months from the date on which the suspension or cancellation took effect complies with the provisions of section 64VA as to the excess of the value of his assets over the amount of his liabilities or has had an application under sub-section (4) of section 3A accepted, or satisfies the Authority that no claim upon him such as is referred to in clause (e) of sub-section (4) remains unpaid or that he has complied with any requirement of this Act or the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, (41 of 1999) or of any rule or any regulation, or any order made thereunder or any direction issued under those Acts, or that he has ceased to carry on any business other than insurance business or any prescribed business, as the case may be, and complies with any directions which may be given to him by the Authority.”.

7. Substitution of new section for section 3A.—For section 3A of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**3A. Payment of annual fee by insurer.**—(1) An insurer who has been granted a certificate of registration under section 3 shall pay such annual fee to the Authority in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.

(2) Any failure to deposit the annual fee shall render the certificate of registration liable to be cancelled.”.

8. Substitution of new section for section 4.—For section 4 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**4. Minimum limits for annuities and other benefits secured by policies of life insurance.**—The insurer shall pay or undertake to pay on any policy of life insurance or a group policy issued, a minimum annuity and other benefits as may be determined by regulations excluding any profit or bonus provided that this shall not prevent an insurer from converting any policy into a paid-up policy of any value or payment of surrender value of any amount.”.

9. Amendment of section 5.—In section 5 of the Insurance Act,—

- (i) in sub-section (1), both the provisos shall be omitted ;
- (ii) sub-section (3) shall be omitted.

10. Substitution of new section for section 6.—For section 6 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“6. Requirement as to capital.—(1) No insurer not being an insurer as defined in sub-clause (d) of clause (9) of section 2, carrying on the business of life insurance, general insurance, health insurance or re-insurance in India or after the commencement of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (41 of 1999), shall be registered unless he has,—

- (i) a paid-up equity capital of rupees one hundred crore, in case of a person carrying on the business of life insurance or general insurance ; or
- (ii) a paid-up equity capital of rupees one hundred crore, in case of a person carrying on exclusively the business of health insurance ; or
- (iii) a paid-up equity capital of rupees two hundred crore, in case of a person carrying on exclusively the business as a re-insurer :

Provided that the insurer, may enhance the paid-up equity capital, as provided in this section in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013), the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992) and the rules, regulations or directions issued thereunder or any other law for the time being in force :

Provided further that in determining the paid-up equity capital, any preliminary expenses incurred in the formation and registration of any insurer as may be specified by the regulations made under this Act, shall be excluded.

(2) No insurer, as defined in sub-clause (d) of clause (9) of section 2, shall be registered unless he has net owned funds of not less than rupees five thousand crore.”.

11. Amendment of section 6A.—In section 6A of the Insurance Act,—

- (i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) No public company limited by shares having its registered office in India, shall carry on life insurance business or general insurance business or health insurance business or re-insurance business, unless it satisfies the following conditions, namely :—

- (i) that the capital of the company shall consist of equity shares each having a single face value and such other form of capital, as may be specified by the regulations ;
- (ii) that the voting rights of shareholders are restricted to equity shares ;
- (iii) that, except during any period not exceeding one year allowed by the company for payment of calls on shares, the paid-up amount is the same for all shares, whether existing or new :

Provided that the conditions specified in this sub-section shall not apply to a public company which has, before the commencement of the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1950, (47 of 1950) issued any shares other than ordinary shares each of which has a single face value or any shares, the paid-up amount whereof is not the same for all of them for a period of three years from such commencement.” ;

- (ii) in sub-section (2), after the words “paid-up amount of the”, the word “equity” shall be inserted ;

- (iii) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(4) A public company as aforesaid which carries on life insurance business, general and health insurance business and re-insurance business—

- (a) shall, in addition to the register of members maintained under the Companies Act, 2013, (18 of 2013) maintain a register of shares in which the name,

occupation and address of the beneficial owner of each share shall be entered including any change of beneficial owner declared to it within fourteen days from the receipt of such declaration ;

(b) shall not register any transfer of its shares—

(i) unless, in addition to compliance being made with the provisions of section 56 of the Companies Act, 2013, (18 of 2013) the transferee furnishes a declaration in the prescribed form as to whether he proposes to hold the shares for his own benefit or as a nominee, whether jointly or severally, on behalf of others and in the latter case giving the name, occupation and address of the beneficial owner or owners, and the extent of the beneficial interest of each ;

(ii) where, after the transfer, the total paid-up holding of the transferee in the shares of the company is likely to exceed five per cent., of its paid-up capital unless the previous approval of the Authority has been obtained to the transfer ;

(iii) where, the nominal value of the shares intended to be transferred by any individual, firm, group, constituents of a group, or body corporate under the same management, jointly or severally exceeds one per cent. of the paid-up equity capital of the insurer, unless the previous approval of the Authority has been obtained for the transfer.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-clause, the expressions “group” and “same management” shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003).” ;

(iv) sub-sections (3), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10) shall be omitted ;

(v) in sub-section (11),—

(a) in the opening portion, the words, brackets and figures “except those of sub-sections (7), (8) and (9)” shall be omitted ;

(b) in clause (i), the word “and” shall be omitted ;

(c) clause (ii) shall be omitted ;

(d) in the *Explanation 1*, in clause (ii), in sub-clause (c), the words “managing agent” shall be omitted.

12. Omission of section 6AA.—Section 6AA of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

13. Amendment of section 6B.—In section 6B of the Insurance Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1),—

(a) for the words “life insurance business”, the words “life or general or health insurance or re-insurance business” shall be substituted ; and

(b) for the words “Central Government”, the word “Authority” shall be substituted ;

(ii) in sub-sections (2) and (3), for the words “High Court”, the words “the Securities Appellate Tribunal” shall be substituted ;”.

(iii) sub-section (4) shall be omitted.

14. Omission of section 6C, 7, 8 and 9.—Sections 6C, 7, 8 and 9 of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

15. Amendment of section 10.—In section 10 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “prescribed in this behalf”, the words “specified by the regulations” shall be substituted ;

(ii) in sub-section (2),—

(a) the words, brackets and figures, “after the expiry of six months from the commencement of the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1946”, (6 of 1946) shall be omitted ;

(b) the words “under the law of the insurer's country” occurring at the end, shall be omitted.

(iii) after sub-section (2A), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(2AA) Where the insurer carries on the business of insurance, all receipts due in respect of each sub-class of such insurance business shall be carried to and shall form a separate fund, the assets of which shall be kept separate and distinct from other assets of the insurer and every insurer shall submit to the Authority the necessary details of such funds as may be required by the Authority from time to time and such funds shall not be applied directly or indirectly, save as expressly permitted under this Act or regulations made thereunder.”.

16. Substitution of new section for section 11.—For section 11 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**11. Accounts and balance sheet.**—(1) Every insurer, on or after the date of the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, in respect of insurance business transacted by him and in respect of his shareholders' funds, shall, at the expiration of each financial year, prepare with reference to that year, balance sheet, a profit and loss account, a separate account of receipts and payments, a revenue account in accordance with the regulations as may be specified.

(2) Every insurer shall keep separate accounts relating to funds of shareholders and policyholders.

(3) Unless the insurer is a company as defined in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, (18 of 2013) the accounts and statements referred to in sub-section (1) shall be signed by the insurer, or in the case of a company by the chairman, if any, and two directors and the principal officer of the company, or in case of an insurance co-operative society by the person in charge of the society and shall be accompanied by a statement containing the names, descriptions and occupations of, and the directorships held by, the persons in charge of the management of the business during the period to which such accounts and statements refer and by a report on the affairs of the business during that period.”.

17. Substitution of new section for section 12.—For section 12 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**12. Audit.**—The balance sheet, profit and loss account, revenue account and profit and loss appropriation account of every insurer, in respect of all insurance business transacted by him, shall, unless they are subject to audit under the Companies Act, 2013, (18 of 2013) be audited annually by an auditor, and the auditor shall in the audit of all such accounts have the powers of, exercise the functions vested in, and discharge the duties and be subject to the liabilities and penalties imposed on, auditors of companies by section 147 of the Companies Act, 2013.”.

18. Amendment of section 13.—In section 13 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) Every insurer carrying on life insurance business shall, once at least every year cause an investigation to be made by an actuary into the financial condition of the life insurance business carried on by him, including a valuation of his liabilities in respect thereto and shall cause an abstract of the report of such actuary to be made in accordance with the regulations :

Provided that the Authority may, having regard to the circumstances of any particular insurer, allow him to have the investigation made as at a date not later than two years from the date as at which the previous investigation was made :

Provided further that every insurer, on or after the commencement of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, (41 of 1999) shall cause an abstract of the report of the actuary to be made in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.” ;

(ii) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(4) There shall be appended to every such abstract a statement prepared in such form and in such manner as may be specified by the regulations :

Provided that, if the investigation referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2) is made annually by any insurer, the statement need not be appended every year but shall be appended at least once in every three years.” ;

(iii) for sub-section (6), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(6) The provisions of this section relating to the life insurance business shall apply also to any such sub-class of insurance business included in the class “Miscellaneous Insurance” and the Authority may authorise such modifications and variations of regulations as may be necessary to facilitate their application to any such sub-class of insurance business :

Provided that, if the Authority is satisfied that the number and amount of the transactions carried out by an insurer in any such sub-class of insurance business is so small as to render periodic investigation and valuation unnecessary, it may exempt that insurer from the operation of this sub-section in respect of that sub-class of insurance business.’.

19. Substitution of new section for section 14.—For section 14 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, Substitution namely :—

“**14. Record of policies and claims.**—(1) Every insurer, in respect of all business transacted by him, shall maintain—

(a) a record of policies, in which shall be entered, in respect of every policy claims, issued by the insurer, the name and address of the policyholder, the date when the policy was effected and a record of any transfer, assignment or nomination of which the insurer has notice ;

(b) a record of claims, every claim made together with the date of the claim, the name and address of the claimant and the date on which the claim was discharged, or, in the case of a claim which is rejected, the date of rejection and the grounds thereof ; and

(c) a record of policies and claims in accordance with clauses (a) and (b) may be maintained in any such form, including electronic mode, as may be specified by the regulations made under this Act.

(2) Every insurer shall, in respect of all business transacted by him, endeavour to issue policies above a specified threshold in terms of sum assured and premium in electronic form, in the manner and form to be specified by the regulations made under this Act.”.

20. Substitution of new section for section 15.—For section 15 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**15. Submission of returns.**—(1) The audited accounts and statements referred to in section 11 or sub-section (5) of section 13 and the abstract and statement referred to in section 13 shall be printed, and four copies thereof shall be furnished as returns to the Authority within six months from the end of the period to which they refer.

(2) Of the four copies so furnished, one shall be signed in the case of a company by the chairman and two directors and by the principal officer of the company and, if the company has a managing director by that managing director and one shall be signed by the auditor who made the audit or the actuary who made the valuation, as the case may be.”.

21. Omission of section 16.—Section 16 of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

22. Omission of section 17 and 17A.—Sections 17 and 17A of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

23. Amendment of section 20.—In section 20 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) Every return furnished to the Authority or certified copy thereof shall be kept by the Authority and shall be open to inspection ; and any person may procure a copy of any such return, or of any part thereof, on payment of such fee as may be specified by the regulations.” ;

(ii) in sub-section (2), the words and figures “or section 16” shall be omitted ;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “one rupee”, the words “such fee as may be specified by the regulations” shall be substituted.

24. Amendment of section 21.—In section 21 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), in clause (d), the words and figures “or section 16” shall be omitted ;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) The Securities Appellate Tribunal may, on the application of an insurer and after hearing the Authority, cancel any order made by the Authority under clause (d) of sub-section (1) or may direct the acceptance of such a return which the Authority has declined to accept, if the insurer satisfies the Tribunal that the action of the Authority was in the circumstances unreasonable :

Provided that no application under this sub-section shall be entertained unless it is made before the expiration of four months from the date when the Authority made the order or declined to accept the return.”.

25. Amendment of section 22.—In section 22 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), the words, brackets, letter and figures “or an abstract of a valuation report furnished under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 16” shall be omitted ;

(ii) in sub-section (2), the words, brackets and figures “or, as the case may be, of sub-section (2) of section 16” shall be omitted.

26. Substitution of new sections for sections 27, 27A, 27B, 27C and 27D.—For sections 27, 27A, 27B, 27C and 27D of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

‘27. Investment of assets.—(1) Every insurer shall invest and at all times keep invested assets equivalent to not less than the sum of—

(a) the amount of his liabilities to holders of life insurance policies in India on account of matured claims, and

(b) the amount required to meet the liability on policies of life insurance maturing for payment in India.

less—

(i) the amount of premiums which have fallen due to the insurer on such policies but have not been paid and the days of grace for payment of which have not expired, and

(ii) any amount due to the insurer for loans granted on and within the surrender values of policies of life insurance maturing for payment in India issued by him or by an insurer whose business he has acquired and in respect of which he has assumed liability in the following manner, namely :—

(a) twenty-five per cent, of the said sum in Government securities, a further sum equal to not less than twenty-five per cent. of the said sum in Government securities or other approved securities ; and

(b) the balance in any of the approved investments,

as may be specified by the regulations subject to the limitations, conditions and restrictions specified therein.

(2) In the case of an insurer carrying on general insurance business, twenty per cent, of the assets in Government Securities, a further sum equal to not less than ten per cent, of the assets in Government Securities or other approved securities and the balance in any other investment in accordance with the regulations of the Authority and subject to such limitations, conditions and restrictions as may be specified by the Authority in this regard.

Explanation.—In this section, the term “assets” means all the assets of insurer at their carrying value but does not include any assets specifically held against any fund or portion thereof in respect of which the Authority is satisfied that such fund or portion thereof, as the case may be, is regulated by the law of any country outside India or miscellaneous expenditure or in respect of which the Authority is satisfied that it would not be in the interest of the insurer to apply the provisions of this section.

(3) For the purposes of sub-sections (1) and (2), any specified assets shall, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified, be deemed to be assets invested or kept invested in approved investments specified by regulations.

(4) In computing the assets referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2), any investment made with reference to any currency other than the Indian rupee which is in excess of the amount required to meet the liabilities of the insurers in India with reference to that currency, to the extent of such excess, shall not be taken into account :

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall affect the operation of sub-section (2) :

Provided further that the Authority may, either generally or in any particular case, direct that any investment shall, subject to such conditions as may be imposed, be taken into account, in such manner as may be specified in computing the assets referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2) and where any direction has been issued under this proviso, copies thereof shall be laid before each house of Parliament as soon as may be after it is issued.

(5) Where an insurer has accepted re-insurance in respect of any policies of life insurance issued by another insurer and maturing for payment in India or has ceded re-insurance to another insurer in respect of any such policies issued by himself, the sum referred to in sub-section (1) shall be increased by the amount of the liability involved in such acceptance and decreased by the amount of the liability involved in such cession.

(6) The Government securities and other approved securities in which assets are under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) to be invested and kept invested shall be held by the insurer free of any encumbrance, charge, hypothecation or lien.

(7) The assets required by this section to be held invested by an insurer incorporated or domiciled outside India shall, except to the extent of any part thereof which consists of foreign assets held outside India, be held in India and all such assets shall be held in trust for the discharge of the liabilities of the nature referred to in sub-section (1) and shall be vested in trustees resident in India and approved by the Authority, and the instrument of trust under this sub-section shall be executed by the insurer with the approval of the Authority and shall define the manner in which alone the subject-matter of the trust shall be dealt with.

Explanation.—This sub-section shall apply to an insurer incorporated in India whose share capital to the extent of one-third is owned by, or the members of whose governing body to the extent of one-third consists of members domiciled elsewhere than in India.

27A. *Further provisions regarding investments.*—(1) No insurer carrying on life insurance business shall invest or keep invested any part of his controlled fund and no insurer carrying on general business shall invest or keep invested any part of his assets otherwise than in any of the approved investments as may be specified by the regulations subject to such limitations, conditions and restrictions therein.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 27, an insurer may, subject to the provisions contained in the next succeeding sub-sections,

invest or keep invested any part of his controlled fund or assets otherwise than in an approved investment, if—

(i) after such investment, the total amounts of all such investments of the insurer do not exceed fifteen per cent, of the sum referred to in sub-section (1) of section 27 or fifteen per cent, of the assets referred to in sub-section (2) as the case may be ; (ii) the investment is made, or, in the case of any investment already made, the continuance of such investment is with the consent of all the directors present at a meeting and eligible to vote, special notice of which has been given to all the directors then in India, and all such investments, including investments in which any director is interested, are reported without delay to the Authority with full details of the investments and the extent of the director's interest in any such investment.

(3) An insurer shall not out of his controlled fund or assets as referred to in section 27,—

(a) invest in the shares of any one banking company ; or

(b) invest in the shares or debentures of any one company, more than the percentage specified by the regulations.

(4) An insurer shall not out of his controlled fund or assets as referred to in sub-section (2) of section 27 invest or keep invested in the shares or debentures of any private limited company.

(5) All assets forming the controlled fund or assets as referred to in sub-section (2) of section 27, not being Government securities or other approved securities in which assets are to be invested or held invested in accordance with this section, shall (except for a part thereof not exceeding one-tenth of the controlled fund or assets as referred to in sub-section (2) thereof in value which may, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, be offered as security for any loan taken for purposes of any investment), be held free of any encumbrance, charge, hypothecation or lien.

(6) If at any time the Authority considers any one or more of the investments of an insurer to be unsuitable or undesirable, the Authority may, after giving the insurer an opportunity of being heard, direct him to realise the investment or investments, and the insurer shall comply with the direction within such time as may be specified in this behalf by the Authority.

(7) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to affect in any way the manner in which any moneys relating to the provident fund of any employee or to any security taken from any employee or other moneys of a like nature are required to be held by or under any Central Act, or Act of a State legislature.

Explanation.—In this section “controlled fund” means—

(a) in the case of any insurer carrying on life insurance business—

(i) all his funds, if he carries on no other class of insurance business ;

(ii) all the funds in India appertaining to his life insurance business if he carries on some other class of insurance business also.

Explanation.—For the purposes of sub-clauses (i) and (ii), the fund does not include any fund or portion thereof in respect of which the Authority is satisfied that such fund or portion, as the case may be, is regulated by the law in force of any country outside India or it would not be in the interest of the insurer to apply the provisions of this section ;

(b) in the case of any other insurer carrying on life insurance business—

(i) all his funds in India, if he carries on no other class of insurance business ;

(ii) all the funds in India appertaining to his life insurance business if he carries on some other class of insurance business also ; but does not include any fund or portion thereof in respect of which the Authority is satisfied that such fund or portion thereof, as the case may be, is regulated by the law of any country outside

India or in respect of which the Authority is satisfied that it would not be in the interest of the insurer to apply the provisions of this section.

27B. *Provisions regarding investments of assets of insurer carrying general insurance business.*—(1) All assets of an insurer carrying on general insurance business shall, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be prescribed, be deemed to be assets invested or kept invested in approved investments specified in section 27.

(2) All assets shall (except for a part thereof not exceeding one-tenth of the total assets in value which may subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, be offered as security for any loan taken for purposes of any investment or for payment of claims, or which may be kept as security deposit with the banks for acceptance of policies) be held free of any encumbrance, charge, hypothecation or lien.

(3) Without prejudice to the powers conferred on the Authority by sub-section (5) of section 27A nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to require any insurer to realise any investment made in conformity with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 27 after the commencement of the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1968 (62 of 1968) which, after the making thereof, has ceased to be an approved investment within the meaning of this section.

27C. *Investment by insurer in certain cases.*—An insurer may invest not more than five per cent, in aggregate of his controlled fund or assets as referred to in sub-section (2) of section 27 in the companies belonging to the promoters, subject to such conditions as may be specified by the regulations.

27D. *Manner and condition of investment.*—(1) Without prejudice to anything contained in this section, the Authority may, in the interests of the policyholders, specify by the regulations, the time, manner and other conditions of investment of assets to be held by an insurer for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Authority may give specific directions for the time, manner and other conditions subject to which the funds of policyholders shall be invested in the infrastructure and social sector as may be specified by the regulations and such regulations shall apply uniformly to all the insurers carrying on the business of life insurance, general insurance, or health insurance or re-insurance in India on or after the commencement of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (41 of 1999).

(3) The Authority may, after taking into account the nature of business and to protect the interests of the policyholders, issue to an insurer the directions relating to the time, manner and other conditions of investment of assets to be held by him :

Provided that no direction under this sub-section shall be issued unless the insurer concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

27E. *Prohibition for investment of funds outside India.*—No insurer shall directly or indirectly invest outside India the funds of the policyholders.’.

27. *Substitution of new section for section 28, section 28A and section 28b.*—For section 28, section 28A and section 28B of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“28. *Statement and return of investment of assets.*—Every insurer shall submit to the Authority returns giving details of investments made, in such form, time and manner including its authentication as may be specified by the regulations.”.

28. *Substitution of new section for section 29.*—For section 29 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“29. *Prohibition of loans.*—(1) No insurer shall grant loans or temporary advances either on hypothecation of property or on personal security or otherwise, except loans on life insurance policies issued by him within their surrender value, to any director, manager, actuary, auditor or officer of the insurer, if a company or to any other company or firm in

which any such director, manager, actuary or officer holds the position of a director, manager, actuary, officer or partner :

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to such loans, made by an insurer to a banking company, as may be specified by the Authority :

Provided further that nothing in this section shall prohibit a company from granting such loans or advances to a subsidiary company or to any other company of which the company granting the loan or advance is a subsidiary company if the previous approval of the Authority is obtained for such loan or advance.

(2) The provisions of section 185 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) shall not apply to a loan granted to a director of an insurer being a company, if the loan is one granted on the security of a policy on which the insurer bears the risk and the policy was issued to the director on his own life, and the loan is within the surrender value of the policy.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1), no insurer shall grant—

(a) any loans or temporary advances either on hypothecation of property or on personal security or otherwise, except such loans as may be specified by the regulations including the loans sanctioned as part of their salary package to the full-time employees of the insurer as per the scheme duly approved by its Board of Directors ;

(b) temporary advances to any insurance agent to facilitate the carrying out of his functions as such except in cases where such advances do not exceed in the aggregate the renewal commission earned by him during the immediately preceding year.

(4) Where any event occurs giving rise to circumstances, the existence of which at the time of grant of any subsisting loan or advance would have made such grant a contravention of this section, such loan or advance shall, notwithstanding anything in any contract to the contrary, be repaid within three months from the occurrence of such event.

(5) In case of default in complying with the provisions of sub-section (4), the director, manager, auditor, actuary, officer or insurance agent concerned shall, without prejudice to any other penalty which he may incur, cease to hold office under, or to act for, the insurer granting the loan on the expiry of three months.”.

29. Substitution of new section for section 30.—For section 30 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**30.** *Liability of directors etc., for loss due to contravention of section 27, 27A, 27B, 27C, 27D or section 29.*—If by reason of a contravention of any of the provisions of section 27, 27A, 27B, 27C, 27D or section 29, any loss is sustained by the insurer or by the policyholders, every director, manager or officer who is knowingly a party to such contravention shall, without prejudice to any other penalty to which he may be liable under this Act, be jointly and severally liable to make good the amount of such loss.”.

30. *Amendment of section 31.*—In section 31 of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) None of the assets in India of any insurer shall, except in so far as assets are required to be vested in trustees under sub-section (7) of section 27, be kept otherwise than in the name of a public officer approved by the Authority, or in the corporate name of the undertaking, if a company or an insurance co-operative society, as the case may be.”.

31. *Amendment of section 31A.*—In section 31A of the Insurance Act,—

(a) in sub-section (1), in clause (c)—

(I) for sub-clauses (i) and (ii) to the proviso, the following sub-clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(i) the payment of commission to an insurance agent, in respect of insurance business procured by or through him ;“ ;

(II) clause (iii) to the proviso shall be omitted ;

(b) in sub-section (3), for the words, figures and letter “or in section 86B of the Indian Companies Act, 1913” (7 of 1913), the words “or in any other law for the time being in force” shall be substituted.

32. Substitution of new section for section 31B.—For section 31B of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“31B. Power to restrict payment of excessive remuneration.—No insurer shall in respect of insurance business transacted by him, shall pay to any person by way of remuneration, whether by way of commission or otherwise in excess of such sum as may be specified by the regulations.”.

33. Omission of section 32.—Section 32 of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

34. Amendment of section 32A.—In section 32A of the Insurance Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), the words, brackets, letter and figures “specified in sub-clause (b) of clause (9) of section 2 and,” shall be omitted ;

(ii) sub-sections (2) and (5) shall be omitted.

35. Amendment of section 32B.—In section 32B of the Insurance Act, for the words “rural or social sector”, the words “rural and social sectors” shall be substituted.

36. Insertion of new section 32D.—After section 32C of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“32D. Obligation of insurer in respect of insurance business in third party risks of motor vehicles.—Every insurer carrying on general insurance business shall, after the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, underwrite such minimum percentage of insurance business in third party risks of motor vehicles as may be specified by the regulations :

Provided that the Authority may, by regulations, exempt any insurer who is primarily engaged in the business of health, re-insurance, agriculture, export credit guarantee, from the application of this section.”.

37. Substitution of new section for section 33.—For section 33 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“33. Power of investigation and inspection by Authority.—(1) The Authority may, at any time, if it considers expedient to do so by order in writing, direct any person (herein referred to as “Investigating Officer”) specified in the order to investigate the affairs of any insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, and to report to the Authority on any investigation made by such Investigating Officer :

Provided that the Investigating Officer may, wherever necessary, employ any auditor or actuary or both for the purpose of assisting him in any investigation under this section.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in section 210 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) the Investigating Officer may, at any time, and shall, on being directed so to do by the Authority, cause an inspection to be made by one or more of his officers of the books of account of any insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, and the Investigating Officer shall supply to the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, a copy of the report on such inspection.

(3) It shall be the duty of every manager, managing director or other officer of the insurer including a service provider, contractor of an insurer where services are outsourced by the insurer, or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, to produce before the Investigating Officer directed to make the investigation under sub-section (1), or inspection under sub-section (2), all such books of account, registers, other documents and the database in his custody or power and to furnish him with any statement and information relating to the affairs of the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, as the Investigating Officer may require of him within such time as the said Investigating Officer may specify.

(4) Any Investigating Officer, directed to make an investigation under sub-section (1), or inspection under sub-section (2), may examine on oath, any manager, managing director or other officer of the insurer including a service provider or contractor where the services are outsourced by the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, in relation to his business.

(5) The Investigating Officer shall, if he has been directed by the Authority to cause an inspection to be made, make a report to the Authority on such inspection.

(6) On receipt of any report under sub-section (1) or sub-section (5), the Authority may, after giving such opportunity to the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, to make a representation in connection with the report as, in the opinion of the Authority, seems reasonable, by order in writing, —

(a) require the insurer, to take such action in respect of any matter arising out of the report as the Authority may think fit ; or

(b) cancel the registration of the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be ; or

(c) direct any person to apply to the court for the winding up of the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, if it is a company, whether the registration of the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, has been cancelled under clause (b) or not.

(7) The Authority may by the regulations made by it specify the minimum information to be maintained by insurers or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, in their books, the manner in which such information shall be maintained, the checks and other verifications to be adopted by insurers or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, in that connection and all other matters incidental thereto as are, in its opinion, necessary to enable the Investigating Officer to discharge satisfactorily his functions under this section.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression “insurer” shall include in the case of an insurer incorporated in India—

(a) all its subsidiaries formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of insurance exclusively outside India ; and

(b) all its branches whether situated in India or outside India.

(8) Any insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary aggrieved by any order made under this section may prefer an appeal to the Securities Appellate Tribunal.

(9) All expenses of, and incidental to, any investigation made under this section shall be defrayed by the insurer or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, shall have priority over the debts due from the insurer and shall be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue.’

38. Amendment of section 34B.—In section 34B of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(4) If any person in respect of whom an order is made by the Authority under sub-section (1) or under the proviso to sub-section (2), contravenes the provisions of this section, he shall be liable to a penalty of one lakh rupees for each day during which such contravention continues or one crore rupees, whichever is less.”.

39. Amendment of section 34c.—In section 34C of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (i), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) If the Authority is of opinion that in the public interest or in the interest of an insurer or his policyholders it is necessary so to do, it may, from time to time, by order in writing, appoint, in consultation with the Central Government with effect from such date

as may be specified in the order, one or more persons to hold office as additional directors of the insurer :

Provided that the number of additional directors so appointed shall not, at any time, exceed five or one-third of the maximum strength fixed for the Board by the articles of association of the insurer, whichever is less.”.

40. Omission of section 34G.—Section 34G of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

41. Amendment of section 34H.—In section 34H of the Insurance Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “an officer authorised by the Authority”, the words “a Deputy Director or an equivalent officer” shall be substituted ;

(ii) in sub-sections (7) and (8), for the words “Central Government”, the words “Securities Appellate Tribunal” shall be substituted.

42. Amendment of section 35.—In section 35 of the Insurance Act,—

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no insurance business of an insurer shall be transferred to or amalgamated with the insurance business of any other insurer except in accordance with a scheme prepared under this section and approved by the Authority.” ;

(ii) in sub-section (3), for clauses (b) and (c), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely :—

“(b) balance sheets in respect of the insurance business of each of the insurers concerned in such amalgamation or transfer, prepared in such forms as may be specified by the regulations ;

(c) actuarial reports and abstracts in respect of the life insurance business of each of the insurers so concerned, prepared in conformity with the regulations specified in this regard.”.

43. Substitution of new section for section 36.—For section 36 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**36. Sanction of amalgamation and transfer by Authority.**—When any application under sub-section (3) of section 35 is made to the Authority, the Authority shall cause, a notice of the application to be given to the holders of any kind of policy of insurer concerned alongwith statement of the nature and terms of the amalgamation or transfer, as the case may be, to be published in such manner and for such period as it may direct, and, after hearing the directors and considering the objections of the policyholders and any other persons whom it considers entitled to be heard, may approve the arrangement, and shall make such consequential orders as are necessary to give effect to the arrangement.”.

44. Amendment of section 37A.—In section 37A of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“(4) The scheme shall thereafter be placed before the Central Government for its sanction and the Central Government may sanction the scheme without any modification or with such modifications as it may consider necessary, and the scheme as sanctioned by the Central Government shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may notify in this behalf in the *Official Gazette* :

Provided that different dates may be specified for different provisions of the scheme.

(4A) Every policyholder or shareholder or member of each of the insurers, before amalgamation, shall have the same interest in, or rights against the insurer resulting from amalgamation as he had in the company of which he was originally a policyholder or shareholder or member :

Provided that where the interests or rights of any shareholder or member are less than his interest in, or rights against, the original insurer, he shall be entitled to compensation, which shall be assessed by the Authority in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.

(4B) The compensation so assessed shall be paid to the shareholder or member by the insurance company resulting from such amalgamation.

(4C) Any member or shareholder aggrieved by the assessment of compensation made by the Authority under sub-section (4A) may within thirty days from the publication of such assessment prefer an appeal to the Securities Appellate Tribunal.”

45. Substitution of new sections for sections 38, 39 and 40.—For sections 38, 39 and 40 of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“38. *Assignment and transfer of insurance policies.*—(1) A transfer or assignment of a policy of insurance, wholly or in part, whether with or without consideration, may be made only by an endorsement upon the policy itself or by a separate instrument, signed in either case by the transferor or by the assignor or his duly authorised agent and attested by at least one witness, specifically setting forth the fact of transfer or assignment and the reasons thereof, the antecedents of the assignee and the terms on which the assignment is made.

(2) An insurer may, accept the transfer or assignment, or decline to act upon any endorsement made under sub-section (1), where it has sufficient reason to believe that such transfer or assignment is not *bona fide* or is not in the interest of the policyholder or in public interest or is for the purpose of trading of insurance policy.

(3) The insurer shall, before refusing to act upon the endorsement, record in writing the reasons for such refusal and communicate the same to the policyholder not later than thirty days from the date of the policyholder giving notice of such transfer or assignment.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the decision of an insurer to decline to act upon such transfer or assignment may within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the communication from the insurer containing reasons for such refusal, prefer a claim to the Authority.

(5) Subject to the provisions in sub-section (2), the transfer or assignment shall be complete and effectual upon the execution of such endorsement or instrument duly attested but except, where the transfer or assignment is in favour of the insurer, shall not be operative as against an insurer, and shall not confer upon the transferee or assignee, or his legal representative, any right to sue for the amount of such policy or the moneys secured thereby until a notice in writing of the transfer or assignment and either the said endorsement or instrument itself or a copy thereof certified to be correct by both transferor and transferee or their duly authorised agents have been delivered to the insurer :

Provided that where the insurer maintains one or more places of business in India, such notice shall be delivered only at the place where the policy is being serviced.

(6) The date on which the notice referred to in sub-section (5) is delivered to the insurer shall regulate the priority of all claims under a transfer or assignment as between persons interested in the policy ; and where there is more than one instrument of transfer or assignment the priority of the claims under such instruments shall be governed by the order in which the notices referred to in sub-section (5) are delivered :

Provided that if any dispute as to priority of payment arises as between assignees, the dispute shall be referred to the Authority.

(7) Upon the receipt of the notice referred to in sub-section (5), the insurer shall record the fact of such transfer or assignment together with the date thereof and the name of the transferee or the assignee and shall, on the request of the person by whom the notice was given, or of the transferee or assignee, on payment of such fee as may be specified by the regulations, grant a written acknowledgement of the receipt of such notice ; and any such acknowledgement shall be conclusive evidence against the insurer that he has duly received the notice to which such acknowledgement relates.

(8) Subject to the terms and conditions of the transfer or assignment, the insurer shall, from the date of the receipt of the notice referred to in sub-section (5), recognise the transferee or assignee named in the notice as the absolute transferee or assignee entitled to benefit under the policy, and such person shall be subject to all liabilities and equities to which the transferor or assignor was subject at the date of the transfer or assignment and may institute any proceedings in relation to the policy, obtain a loan under the policy or surrender the policy without obtaining the consent of the transferor or assignor or making him a party to such proceedings.

Explanation.—Except where the endorsement referred to in sub-section (1) expressly indicates that the assignment or transfer is conditional in terms of sub-section (10) hereunder, every assignment or transfer shall be deemed to be an absolute assignment or transfer and the assignee or transferee, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be the absolute assignee or transferee respectively.

(9) Any rights and remedies of an assignee or transferee of a policy of life insurance under an assignment or transfer effected prior to the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 shall not be affected by the provisions of this section.

(10) Notwithstanding any law or custom having the force of law to the contrary, an assignment in favour of a person made upon the condition that— (a) the proceeds under the policy shall become payable to the policyholder or the nominee or nominees in the event of either the assignee or transferee predeceasing the insured ; or (b) the insured surviving the term of the policy, shall be valid :

Provided that a conditional assignee shall not be entitled to obtain a loan on the policy or surrender a policy.

(11) In the case of the partial assignment or transfer of a policy of insurance under sub-section (1), the liability of the insurer shall be limited to the amount secured by partial assignment or transfer and such policyholder shall not be entitled to further assign or transfer the residual amount payable under the same policy.

39. Nomination by policyholder.—(1) The holder of a policy of life insurance on his own life may, when effecting policy or at any time before the policy matures for payment, nominate the person or persons to whom the money secured by the policy shall be paid in the event of his death :

Provided that, where any nominee is a minor, it shall be lawful for the policyholder to appoint any person in the manner laid down by the insurer, to receive the money secured by the policy in the event of his death during the minority of the nominee.

(2) Any such nomination in order to be effectual shall, unless it is incorporated in the text of the policy itself, be made by an endorsement on the policy communicated to the insurer and registered by him in the records relating to the policy and any such nomination may at any time before the policy matures for payment be cancelled or changed by an endorsement or a further endorsement or a will, as the case may be, but unless notice in writing of any such cancellation or change has been delivered to the insurer, the insurer shall not be liable for any payment under the policy made *bona fide* by him to a nominee mentioned in the text of the policy or registered in records of the insurer.

(3) The insurer shall furnish to the policyholder a written acknowledgement of having registered a nomination or a cancellation or change thereof, and may charge such fee as may be specified by regulations for registering such cancellation or change.

(4) A transfer or assignment of a policy made in accordance with section 38 shall automatically cancel a nomination :

Provided that the assignment of a policy to the insurer who bears the risk on the policy at the time of the assignment, in consideration of a loan granted by that insurer on the security of the policy within its surrender value, or its reassignment on repayment of the loan shall not cancel a nomination, but shall affect the rights of the nominee only to the extent of the insurer's interest in the policy :

Provided further that the transfer or assignment of a policy, whether wholly or in part, in consideration of a loan advanced by the transferee or assignee to the policyholder, shall not cancel the nomination but shall affect the rights of the nominee only to the extent of the interest of the transferee or assignee, as the case may be, in the policy :

Provided also that the nomination, which has been automatically cancelled consequent upon the transfer or assignment, the same nomination shall stand automatically revived when the policy is reassigned by the assignee or retransferred by the transferee in favour of the policyholder on repayment of loan other than on a security of policy to the insurer.

(5) Where the policy matures for payment during the lifetime of the person whose life is insured or where the nominee or, if there are more nominees than one, all the nominees die before the policy matures for payment, the amount secured by the policy shall be payable to the policyholder or his heirs or legal representatives or the holder of a succession certificate, as the case may be.

(6) Where the nominee or if there are more nominees than one, a nominee or nominees survive the person whose life is insured, the amount secured by the policy shall be payable to such survivor or survivors.

(7) Subject to the other provisions of this section, where the holder of a policy of insurance on his own life nominates his parents, or his spouse, or his children, or his spouse and children, or any of them, the nominee or nominees shall be beneficially entitled to the amount payable by the insurer to him or them under sub-section (6) unless it is proved that the holder of the policy, having regard to the nature of his title to the policy, could not have conferred any such beneficial title on the nominee.

(8) Subject as aforesaid, where the nominee, or if there are more nominees than one, a nominee or nominees, to whom sub-section (7) applies, die after the person whose life is insured but before the amount secured by the policy is paid, the amount secured by the policy, or so much of the amount secured by the policy as represents the share of the nominee or nominees so dying (as the case may be), shall be payable to the heirs or legal representatives of the nominee or nominees or the holder of a succession certificate, as the case may be, and they shall be beneficially entitled to such amount.

(9) Nothing in sub-sections (7) and (8) shall operate to destroy or impede the right of any creditor to be paid out of the proceeds of any policy of life insurance.

(10) The provisions of sub-sections (7) and (8) shall apply to all policies of life insurance maturing for payment after the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(11) Where a policyholder dies after the maturity of the policy but the proceeds and benefit of his policy has not been made to him because of his death, in such a case, his nominee shall be entitled to the proceeds and benefit of his policy.

(12) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any policy of life insurance to which section 6 of the Married Women's Property Act, 1874, (3 of 1874) applies or has at any time applied :

Provided that where a nomination made whether before or after the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, in favour of the wife of the person who has insured his life or of his wife and children or any of them is expressed, whether or not on the face of the policy, as being made under this section, the said section 6 shall be deemed not to apply or not to have applied to the policy.

40. Prohibition of payment by way of commission or otherwise for procuring business.—

(1) No person shall, pay or contract to pay any remuneration or reward, whether by way of commission or otherwise for soliciting or procuring insurance business in India to any person except an insurance agent or an intermediary or insurance intermediary in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.

(2) No insurance agent or intermediary or insurance intermediary shall receive or contract to receive commission or remuneration in any form in respect of policies issued in India, by an insurer in any form in respect of policies issued in India, by an insurer except in accordance with the regulations specified in this regard :

Provided that the Authority, while making regulations under sub-sections (1) and (2), shall take into consideration the nature and tenure of the policy and in particular the interest of the agents and other intermediaries concerned.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 102 in respect of a contravention of any of the provisions of the preceding sub-sections or the regulations framed in this regard, by an insurer, any insurance agent or intermediary or insurance intermediary who contravenes the said provisions shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees.”.

46. Omission of section 40A.—Section 40A of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

47. Substitution of new sections for sections 40B and 40C.—For sections 40B and 40C of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“40B. Limitation of expenses of management in life insurance business.—No insurer shall, in respect of insurance business transacted by him in India, spend as expenses of management in any financial year any amount exceeding the amount as may be specified by the regulations made under this Act ;

40C. Limitation of expenses of management in general health insurance and re-insurance business.—Every insurer transacting insurance business in India shall furnish to the Authority, the details of expenses of management in such manner and form as may be specified by the regulations made under this Act.”.

48. Amendment of section 41.—In section 41 of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) Any person making default in complying with the provisions of this section shall be liable for a penalty which may extend to ten lakh rupees.”.

49. Substitution of new section for section 42.—For section 42 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“42. Appointment of insurance agents.—(1) An insurer may appoint any person to act as insurance agent for the purpose of soliciting and procuring insurance business :

Provided that such person does not suffer from any of the disqualifications mentioned in sub-section (3).

(2) No person shall act as an insurance agent for more than one life insurer, one general insurer, one health insurer and one of each of the other mono-line insurers :

Provided that the Authority shall, while framing regulations, ensure that no conflict of interest is allowed to arise for any agent in representing two or more insurers for whom he may be an agent.

(3) The disqualifications referred to in the proviso to sub-section (1) shall be the following :—

(a) that the person is a minor ;

(b) that he is found to be of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction ;

(c) that he has been found guilty of criminal misappropriation or criminal breach of trust or cheating or forgery or an abetment of or attempt to commit any such offence by a court of competent jurisdiction :

Provided that where at least five years have elapsed since the completion of the sentence imposed on any person in respect of any such offence, the Authority shall ordinarily declare in respect of such person that his conviction shall cease to operate as a disqualification under this clause ;

(d) that in the course of any judicial proceeding relating to any policy of insurance or the winding up of an insurer or in the course of an investigation of the affairs of an insurer it has been found that he has been guilty of or has knowingly participated in or connived at any fraud, dishonesty or misrepresentation against an insurer or insured ;

(e) that in the case of an individual, who does not possess the requisite qualifications or practical training or passed the examination, as may be specified by the regulations ;

(f) that in the case of a company or firm making, a director or a partner or one or more of its officers or other employees so designated by it and in the case of any other person the chief executive, by whatever name called, or one or more of his employees designated by him, do not possess the requisite qualifications or practical training and have not passed such an examination as required under clauses (e) and (g) ;

(g) that he has not passed such examination as may be specified by the regulations ;

(h) that he has violated the code of conduct as may be specified by the regulations.

(4) Any person who acts as an insurance agent in contravention of the provision of this Act, shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to ten thousand rupees and any insurer or any person acting on behalf of an insurer, who appoints any person as an insurance agent not permitted to act as such or transacts any insurance business in India through any such person shall be liable to penalty which may extend to one crore rupees.

(5) The insurer shall be responsible for all the acts and omissions of its agents including violation of code of conduct specified under clause (h) of sub-section (5) and liable to a penalty which may extend to one crore rupees.”.

50. *Substitution of new section for sections 42A, 42B and 42C.*—For sections 42A, 42B and 42C of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

‘42A. Prohibition of insurance business through principal agent, special agent and multilevel marketing.—(1) No insurer shall, on or after the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, appoint any principal agent, chief agent, and special agent and transact any insurance business in India through them.

(2) No person shall allow or offer to allow, either directly or indirectly, as an inducement to any person to take out or renew or continue an insurance policy through multilevel marketing scheme.

(3) The Authority may, through an officer authorised in this behalf, make a complaint to the appropriate police authorities against the entity or persons involved in the multilevel marketing scheme.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this section “multilevel marketing scheme” means any scheme or programme or arrangement or plan (by whatever name called) for the purpose of soliciting and procuring insurance business through persons not authorised for the said purpose with or without consideration of whole or part of commission or remuneration earned through such solicitation and procurement and includes enrolment of persons into a multilevel chain for the said purpose either directly or indirectly.’

51. Amendment of section 42D.—In section 42D of the Insurance Act,—

(i) for the words “licence” and “licence issued”, wherever they occur, the words “registration” and “registration made”, shall respectively be substituted ;

(ii) in sub-section (1), in clause (a) of the proviso, for the word, brackets and figure “sub-section (4)”, the word, brackets and figure “sub-section (3)” shall be substituted ;

(iii) in sub-section (3),—

(a) after the words “directors or partners”, the words “or one or more of its officers or other employees so designated by it and in the case of any other person, the chief executive by whatever name called, or one or more of his employees designated by him” shall be inserted ;

(b) for the words, brackets, letters and figures “in clauses (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of sub-section (4) of section 42”, the words, brackets, letters and figures “in clauses (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of sub-section (3) of section 42” shall be substituted ;

(iv) for sub-sections (8) and (9), the following sub-sections, shall be substituted, namely :—

“(8) Any person who acts as an intermediary or an insurance intermediary without being registered under this section to act as such, shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to ten lakh rupees and any person who appoints as an intermediary or an insurance intermediary or any person not registered to act as such or transacts any insurance business in India through any such person, shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to one crore rupees.

(9) Where the person contravening sub-section (8) is a company or a firm, then, without prejudice to any other proceedings which may be taken against the company or firm, every director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, and every partner of the firm who is knowingly a party to such contravention shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to ten lakh rupees.”.

52. Substitution of new section for section 42E.—For section 42E of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“42E. Condition for intermediary or insurance intermediary.—Without prejudice to the provisions contained in this Act, the Authority may, by regulations made in this behalf, specify the requirements of capital, form of business and other conditions, to act as an intermediary or an insurance intermediary.”.

53. Substitution of new section for section 43.—For section 43 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“43. Record of insurance agents.—(1) Every insurer and every person who, acting on behalf of an insurer employs insurance agents shall maintain a record showing the name and address of every insurance agent appointed by him and the date on which his appointment began and the date, if any, on which his appointment ceased.

(2) The record prepared by the insurer under sub-section (1), shall be maintained as long as the insurance agent is in service and for a period of five years after the cessation of appointment.”.

54. Omission of section 44.—Section 44 of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

55. Substitution of new sections for sections 44A and 45.—For sections 44A and 45 of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

‘44A. Power to call for information.—For the purposes of ensuring compliance with the provisions of sections 40,40B and 40C, the Authority may, by notice—

(a) require from an insurer such information, certified if so required by an auditor or actuary, as it may consider necessary ;

(b) require an insurer to submit for its examination at the principal place of business of the insurer in India, any books of account, register or other document, or to supply any statement which may be specified in the notice ;

(c) examine any officer of an insurer on oath, in relation to any such information, book, register, document or statement and the insurer, shall comply with any such requirement within such time as may be specified in the notice.

45. Policy not be called in question on ground of misstatement after three years.—(1) No policy of life insurance shall be called in question on any ground whatsoever after the expiry of three years from the date of the policy, i.e., from the date of issuance of the policy or the date of commencement of risk or the date of revival of the policy or the date of the rider to the policy, whichever is later.

(2) A policy of life insurance may be called in question at any time within three years from the date of issuance of the policy or the date of commencement of risk or the date of revival of the policy or the date of the rider to the policy, whichever is later, on the ground of fraud :

Provided that the insurer shall have to communicate in writing to the insured or the legal representatives or nominees or assignees of the insured the grounds and materials on which such decision is based.

Explanation I.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression “fraud” means any of the following acts committed by the insured or by his agent, with intent to deceive the insurer or to induce the insurer to issue a life insurance policy :—

(a) the suggestion, as a fact of that which is not true and which the insured does not believe to be true ;

(b) the active concealment of a fact by the insured having knowledge or belief of the fact ;

(c) any other act fitted to deceive ; and

(d) any such act or omission as the law specially declares to be fraudulent.

Explanation II—Mere silence as to facts likely to affect the assessment of the risk by the insurer is not fraud, unless the circumstances of the case are such that regard being had to them, it is the duty of the insured or his agent keeping silence, to speak, or unless his silence is, in itself, equivalent to speak.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), no insurer shall repudiate a life insurance policy on the ground of fraud if the insured can prove that the misstatement of or suppression of a material fact was true to the best of his knowledge and belief or that there was no deliberate intention to suppress the fact or that such misstatement of or suppression of a material fact are within the knowledge of the insurer :

Provided that in case of fraud, the onus of disproving lies upon the beneficiaries, in case the policyholder is not alive.

Explanation.—A person who solicits and negotiates a contract of insurance shall be deemed for the purpose of the formation of the contract, to be the agent of the insurer.

(4) A policy of life insurance may be called in question at any time within three years from the date of issuance of the policy or the date of commencement of risk or the date of revival of the policy or the date of the rider to the policy, whichever is later, on the ground that any statement of or suppression of a fact material to the expectancy of the life of the insured was incorrectly made in the proposal or other document on the basis of which the policy was issued or revived or rider issued :

Provided that the insurer shall have to communicate in writing to the insured or the legal representatives or nominees or assignees of the insured the grounds and materials on which such decision to repudiate the policy of life insurance is based :

Provided further that in case of repudiation of the policy on the ground of misstatement or suppression of a material fact, and not on the ground of fraud, the premiums collected on the policy till the date of repudiation shall be paid to the insured or the legal representatives or nominees or assignees of the insured within a period of ninety days from the date of such repudiation.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the misstatement of or suppression of fact shall not be considered material unless it has a direct bearing on the risk undertaken by the insurer, the onus is on the insurer to show that had the insurer been aware of the said fact no life insurance policy would have been issued to the insured.

(5) Nothing in this section shall prevent the insurer from calling for proof of age at any time if he is entitled to do so, and no policy shall be deemed to be called in question merely because the terms of the policy are adjusted on subsequent proof that the age of the life insured was incorrectly stated in the proposal.’

56. *Omission of sections 47A and 48.*—Sections 47 A and 48 of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

57. *Substitution of new section for section 48A.*—For section 48A of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**48A.** *Insurance agent or intermediary or insurance intermediary not to be director in insurance company.*—No insurance agent or intermediary or insurance intermediary shall be eligible to be or remain a director in insurance company :

Provided that any director holding office at the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 shall not become ineligible to remain a director by reason of this section until the expiry of six months from the date of commencement of the said Act :

Provided further that the Authority may permit an agent or intermediary or insurance intermediary to be on the Board of an insurance company subject to such conditions or restrictions as it may impose to protect the interest of policyholders or to avoid conflict of interest.”.

58. Amendment of section 49.—In section 49 of the Insurance Act, in sub-section (i),—

(i) the words, brackets, letters and figures “being an insurer specified in sub-clause (a)(ii) or sub-clause (b) of clause (9) of section 2” shall be omitted ;

(ii) the words and figures “or to the Central Government under section 11 of the Indian Life Insurance Companies Act, 1912” shall be omitted.

59. Substitution of new sections for sections 52 and 52A.—For sections 52 and 52A of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“52. Prohibition of business on dividing principle.—No insurer shall commence any business upon the dividing principle, that is to say, on the principle that the benefit secured by a policy is not fixed but depends either wholly or partly on the result of a distribution of certain sums amongst policies becoming claims within certain time-limits, or on the principle that the premiums payable by a policyholder depend wholly or partly on the number of policies becoming claims within certain time-limits :

Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent an insurer from allocating bonuses to holders of policies of life insurance as a result of a periodical actuarial valuation either as reversionary additions to the sums insured or as immediate cash bonuses or otherwise.

52A. When Administrator for management of insurance business may be appointed.—

(1) If at any time the Authority has reason to believe that an insurer carrying on life insurance business is acting in a manner likely to be prejudicial to the interests of holders of life insurance policies, it may, after giving such opportunity to the insurer to be heard appoint an Administrator to manage the affairs of the insurer under the direction and control of the Authority.

(2) The Administrator shall receive such remuneration as the Authority may direct and the Authority may at any time cancel the appointment and appoint some other person as Administrator.”.

60. Amendment of section 52BB.—In section 52BB of the Insurance Act,—

(a) in sub-section (2), for the words “the Central Government and the Central Government”, the words “the Securities Appellate Tribunal and the Securities Appellate Tribunal” shall be substituted ;

(b) in sub-section (3), for the words “Central Government”, the words “Securities Appellate Tribunal” shall be substituted ;

(c) in sub-section (10), in clause (a), the words “or the Central Government” shall be omitted.

61. Substitution of new section for section 52D.—For section 52D of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“52D. Termination of appointment of Administrator.—If at any time, it appears to the Authority that the purpose of the order appointing the Administrator has been fulfilled or that, for any reason, it is undesirable that the order of appointment should remain in force, the Authority may cancel the order and thereupon the Administrator shall be divested of the management of the insurance business which shall, unless otherwise directed by the Authority, again vest in the person in whom it was vested immediately prior to the appointment of the Administrator or any other person appointed by the insurer in this behalf.”.

62. Amendment of section 52E.—In section 52E of the Insurance Act, for the words “Central Government”, the word “Authority” shall be substituted.

63. Amendment of section 52F.—In section 52F of the Insurance Act, for the words “punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both”, the words “liable to penalty of rupees ten thousand each day during which such failure continues or rupees ten lakh, whichever is less” shall be substituted.

- 64. Amendment of section 52G.**—In section 52G of the Insurance Act, in sub-section (2), the words “Central Government or” shall be omitted.
- 65. Omission of section 52H, 52-I, 52J, 52K, 52L, 52M and 52N.**—Sections 52H, 52-I, 52J, 52K, 52L, 52M and 52N of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.
- 66. Amendment of section 53.**—In section 53 of the Insurance Act,—
- (a) in sub-section (1), the following Explanation shall be inserted at the end, namely :—
‘Explanation.—For the purpose of sections 53 to 61 A, “Tribunal” means the National Company Law Tribunal constituted under sub-section (1) of section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013.’; (18 of 2013)
- (b) in sub-section (2), in clause (b), sub-clause (i), shall be omitted.
- 67. Amendment of section 58.**—In section 58 of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—
 “(4) An order of the Tribunal confirming a scheme under this section whereby the memorandum of a company is altered with respect to its objects shall as respects the alteration have effect as if it were an order confirmed under section 4 of the Companies Act, 2013, (18 of 2013) and the provisions of sections 7 and 17 of that Act shall apply accordingly.”.
- 68. Omission of section 59.**—Section 59 of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.
- 69. Amendment of heading.**—In PART II A of the Insurance Act, for the heading “Insurance Association of India, Councils of The Association and Committees Thereof” the following heading shall be substituted, namely :—
 “Life Insurance Council and General Insurance Council and Committees Thereof.”.
- 70. Omission of sections 64A and 64B.**—Sections 64A and 64B of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.
- 71. Substitution of new sections for sections 64C and 64D.**—For sections 64C and 64D of the Insurance Act the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—
“64C. Councils of Life Insurance and General Insurance.—On and from the date of commencement of this Act,—
- (a) the existing Life Insurance Council, a representative body of the insurers, who carry on the life insurance business in India ; and
- (b) the existing General Insurance Council, a representative body of insurers, who carry on general, health insurance business and re-insurance in India, shall be deemed to have been constituted as the respective Councils under this Act.
- 64D. Authorisation to represent in Councils.**—It shall be lawful for any member of the Life Insurance Council or the General Insurance Council to authorise any of its officer to act as the representative of such member at any meeting of the Council concerned.”.
- 72. Substitution of new section for section 64F.**—For section 64F of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—
“64F. Executive Committees of the Life Insurance council and the General Insurance council.—(1) The Executive Committee of the Life Insurance Council shall consist of the following persons, namely :—
- (a) four representatives of members of the Life Insurance Council elected in their individual capacity by the members in such manner as may be laid down in the bye-laws of the Council ;
- (b) an eminent person not connected with insurance business, nominated by the Authority ;
- (c) three persons to represent insurance agents, intermediaries and policyholders respectively as may be nominated by the Authority ;

(d) one representative each from self-help groups and Insurance Co-operative Societies :

Provided that one of the representatives as mentioned in clause (a) shall be elected as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Life Insurance Council.

(2) The Executive Committee of the General Insurance Council shall consist of the following persons, namely :—

(a) four representatives of members of the General Insurance Council elected in their individual capacity by the members in such manner as may be laid down in the bye-laws of the Council ;

(b) an eminent person not connected with insurance business, nominated by the Authority ; and

(c) four persons to represent insurance agents, third party administrators, surveyors and loss assessors and policyholders respectively as may be nominated by the Authority :

Provided that one of the representatives as mentioned in clause (a) shall be elected as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the General Insurance Council.

(3) If anybody of persons specified in sub-sections (1) and (2) fails to elect any of the members of the Executive Committees of the Life Insurance Council or the General Insurance Council, the Authority may nominate any person to fill the vacancy, and any person so nominated shall be deemed to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Life Insurance Council or the General Insurance Council, as the case may be, as if he had been duly elected thereto.

(4) Each of the said Executive Committees may make bye-laws for the transaction of any business at any meeting of the said Committee.

(5) The Life Insurance Council or the General Insurance Council may form such other committees consisting of such persons as it may think fit to discharge such functions as may be delegated thereto.

(6) The Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Life Insurance Council and of the Executive Committee of the General Insurance Council shall in each case be appointed by the Executive Committee concerned :

Provided that each Secretary appointed by the Executive Committee concerned shall exercise all such powers and do all such acts as may be authorised in this behalf by the Executive Committee concerned.”.

73. Amendment of section 64G.—In section 64G of the Insurance Act, in sub-section (2), for the words “by nomination by the Authority”, the words “in such manner as may be laid down in the bye-laws of the Council concerned” shall be substituted.

74. Omission fo section 64-I.—Section 64-I of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

75. Amendment of section 64J.—In section 64J of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) For the purpose of enabling it to effectively discharge its functions, the Executive Committee of the Life Insurance Council may collect such fees as may be laid down in the bye-laws made by the Council from the insurers carrying on life insurance business.”.

76. Amendment of section 64L.—In section 64L of the Insurance Act, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) For the purpose of enabling it to effectively discharge its functions, the Executive Committee of the General Insurance Council may collect such fees as may be laid down in the bye-laws made by the Council from the insurers carrying on general insurance business.”.

77. Amendment of section 64N.—In section 64N of the Insurance Act, for the words “the Central Government may prescribe”, the words “the Authority may specify” shall be substituted.

78. Amendment of section 64R.—In section 64R of the Insurance Act, in sub-section (1),—

(a) for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(c) keep and maintain up-to-date, a copy of list of all insurers who are members of the either Council ;” ;

(b) in clause (d), for the words “with the previous approval of the Authority make regulations for”, the words “make bye-laws for” shall be substituted.

79. Omission of sections 64S and 64T.—Sections 64S and 64T of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

80. Omission of section 64U, 64UA, 64UB, 64UC, 64UD, 64UE, 64UF, 64UG, 64UH, 64U-I, 64UJ, 64UK and 64UL.—Sections 64U, 64UA, 64UB, 64UC, 64UD, 64UE, 64UF, 64UG, 64UH, 64U-I, 64UJ, 64UK and 64UL of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

81. Insertion of new section 64ULA.—After section 64UL of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“64ULA. Transitional provisions.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Part, until the rates, advantage and terms and conditions laid down by the Advisory Committee under section 64UC are de-notified by the Authority with effect from such date as the Authority may by notification in the *Official Gazette* determine, and the rates, advantages and terms and conditions are decided by the insurer concerned, the rates, advantages and terms and conditions notified by the Advisory Committee shall continue to be in force and shall always be deemed to have been in force and any such rates, advantages and terms and conditions shall be binding on all the insurers.

(2) The Authority shall, in consultation with the Central Government, prepare a scheme for the existing employees of the Tariff Advisory Committee on its dissolution, keeping in view the interests of such employees on such terms and conditions as it may, by order, determine.”.

82. Substitution of new section for section 64UM.—For section 64UM of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

‘64UM. Surveyors or loss assessors.—(1) Save as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall act as a surveyor or loss assessor in respect of general insurance business after the expiry of a period of one year from the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, unless he—

(a) possesses such academic qualifications as may be specified by the regulations made under this Act ; and

(b) is a member of a professional body of surveyors and loss assessors, namely, the Indian Institute of Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors :

Provided that in the case of a firm or company, all the partners or directors or other persons, who may be called upon to make a survey or assess a loss reported, as the case may be, shall fulfil the requirements of clauses (a) and (b).

(2) Every surveyor and loss assessor shall comply with the code of conduct in respect of his duties, responsibilities and other professional requirements, as may be specified by the regulations made under the Act.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions, a class or class of persons acting as a licensed surveyor or loss assessor prior to the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 shall continue to act as such for such period as may be specified by the regulations made under this Act :

Provided that the surveyor or loss assessor shall, within the period as may be notified by the Authority, satisfy the requirements of clause (a) and clause (b) of sub-section (1), failing which, the surveyor or loss assessor shall be automatically disqualified to act as a surveyor or loss assessor.

(4) No claim in respect of a loss which has occurred in India and requiring to be paid or settled in India equal to or exceeding an amount specified in the regulations by the Authority in value on any policy of insurance, arising or intimated to an insurer at any time after the expiry of a period of one year from the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, shall, unless otherwise directed by the Authority, be admitted for payment or settled by the insurer unless he has obtained a report, on the loss that has occurred, from a person who holds a licence issued under this section to act as a surveyor or loss assessor (hereafter referred to as "approved surveyor or loss assessor") :

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to take away or abridge the right of the insurer to pay or settle any claim at any amount different from the amount assessed by the approved surveyor or loss assessor.

(5) The Authority may, at any time, in respect of any claim of the nature referred to in sub-section (4), call for an independent report from any other approved surveyor or loss assessor specified by him and such surveyor or loss assessor shall furnish such report to the Authority within such time as may be specified by the Authority or if no time limit has been specified by him within a reasonable time and the cost of, or incidental to, such report shall be borne by the insurer.

(6) The Authority may, on receipt of a report referred to in sub-section (5), issue such directions as it may consider necessary with regard to the settlement of the claim including any direction to settle a claim at a figure less than, or more than, that at which it is proposed to settle it or it was settled and the insurer shall be bound to comply with such directions :

Provided that where the Authority issues a direction for settling a claim at a figure lower than that at which it has already been settled, the insurer shall be deemed to comply with such direction if he satisfies the Authority that all reasonable steps, with due regard to the question whether the expenditure involved is not disproportionate to the amount required to be recovered, have been taken with due despatch by him :

Provided further that no direction for the payment of a lesser sum shall be made where the amount of the claim has already been paid and the Authority is of opinion that the recovery of the amount paid in excess would cause undue hardship to the insured :

Provided also that nothing in this section shall relieve the insurer from any liability, civil or criminal, to which he would have been subject but for the provisions of this sub-section.

(7) No insurer shall, after the expiry of a period of one year from the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 pay to any person any fee or remuneration for surveying, verifying or reporting on a claim of loss under a policy of insurance unless the person making such survey, verification or report is an approved surveyor or loss assessor.

(8) Where, in the case of a claim of less than the amount specified in sub-section (4) in value on any policy of insurance it is not practicable for an insurer to employ an approved surveyor or loss assessor without incurring expenses disproportionate to the amount of the claim, the insurer may employ any other person (not being a person disqualified for the time being for being employed as a surveyor or loss assessor) for surveying such loss and may pay such reasonable fee or remuneration to the person so employed as he may think fit.

(9) The Authority may in respect of any claim of value of less than the amount specified in sub-section (4) on an insurance policy, if the claim has not been or is not proposed to be reported upon by a surveyor or loss assessor, direct that such claim shall be reported upon by an approved surveyor or loss assessor and where the Authority makes such direction, the provisions of sub-sections (5) and (6) shall apply in respect of such claim.

(10) Where, in relation to any class of claims, the Authority is satisfied that it is customary to entrust the work of survey or loss assessment to any person other than a licensed surveyor or loss assessor, or it is not practicable to make any survey or loss assessment, it may, by an order, exempt such class of claims from the operation of this section.'

83. Substitution of new sections for sections 64V and 64VA.—For sections 64V and 64VA of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“64V. Assets and liabilities how to be valued.—(1) For the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of section 64VA, assets shall be valued at value not exceeding their market or realisable value and certain assets may be excluded by the Authority in the manner as may be specified by the regulations made in this behalf.

(2) A proper value shall be placed on every item of liability of the insurer in the manner as may be specified by the regulations made in this behalf.

(3) Every insurer shall furnish to the Authority along with the returns required to be filed under this Act, a statement, certified by an Auditor, approved by the Authority, in respect of general insurance business or an actuary approved by the Authority in respect of life insurance business, as the case may be, of his assets and liabilities assessed in the manner required by this section as on the 31st day of March of each year within such time as may be specified by the regulations.

64VA. Sufficiency of assets.—(1) Every insurer and re-insurer shall at all times maintain an excess of value of assets over the amount of liabilities of, not less than fifty per cent, of the amount of minimum capital as stated under section 6 and arrived at in the manner specified by the regulations.

(2) An insurer or re-insurer, as the case may be, who does not comply with sub-section (1), shall be deemed to be insolvent and may be wound-up by the court on an application made by the Authority.

(3) The Authority shall by way of regulation made for the purpose, specify a level of solvency margin known as control level of solvency on the breach of which the Authority shall act in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (4) without prejudice to taking of any other remedial measures as deemed fit :

Provided that if in respect of any insurer the Authority is satisfied that either by reason of an unfavourable claim experience or because of a sharp increase in the volume of new business, or for any other reason, compliance with the provisions of this sub-section shall cause undue hardship to the insurer, it may direct that for such period and subject to such conditions as it may specify, the provisions of this sub-section shall apply to that insurer with such modifications provided that such modifications shall not result in the control level of solvency being less than what is stipulated under sub-section (1).

(4) If, at any time, an insurer or re-insurer does not maintain the required control level of solvency margin, he shall, in accordance with the directions issued by the Authority, submit a financial plan to the Authority, indicating a plan of action to correct the deficiency within a specified period not exceeding six months.

(5) An insurer who has submitted a plan, as required under sub-section (4), the Authority shall propose modifications to the plan, if the Authority considers the same inadequate, and in such an eventuality, the Authority shall give directions, as may be deemed necessary, including direction in regard to transacting any new business, or, appointment of an administrator or both.

(6) An insurer or re-insurer, as the case may be, who does not comply with the provisions of sub-section (4) shall be deemed to have made default in complying with the requirements of this section.

(7) The Authority shall be entitled at any time to take such steps as it may consider necessary for the inspection or verification of the assets and liabilities of any insurer or re-insurer, or for securing the particulars necessary to establish that the requirements of this section have been complied with as on any date, and the insurer or re-insurer, as the case may be, shall comply with any requisition made in this behalf by the Authority, and in the event of any failure to do so within two months from the receipt of the requisition, the insurer or re-insurer, as the case may be, shall be deemed to have made default in complying with the requirements of this section.

(8) In applying the provisions of sub-section (1) to any insurer or re-insurer, as the case may be, who is a member of a group, the relevant amount for that insurer shall be an amount equal to that proportion of the relevant amount which that group, if considered as a single insurer, would have been required to maintain as the proportion of his share of the risk on each policy issued by the group bears to the total risk on that policy :

Provided that when a group of insurers ceases to be a group, every insurer in that group who continues to carry on any class of insurance business in India shall comply with the requirements of sub-section (1) as if he had not been an insurer in a group at any time :

Provided further that it shall be sufficient compliance of the provisions of the foregoing proviso if the insurer brings up the excess of the value of his assets over the amount of his liabilities to the required amount within a period of six months from the date of cessation of the group :

Provided also that the Authority may, on sufficient cause being shown, extend the said period of six months by such further periods as it may think fit, so, however that the total period may not in any case exceed one year.

(9) Every insurer shall furnish to the Authority return giving details of solvency margin in such form, time, manner including its authentication as may be specified by the regulations.”.

84. Substitution of new section for section 64VC.—For section 64VC of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**64VC. Restrictions on opening of new place of business.**—No insurer shall, after the commencement of the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1968, open a new place of business or close a place in India or outside India or change otherwise than within the same city, town or village, the location of an existing place of business situated in India or outside India, except in the manner as may be specified by the regulations.”.

85. Omission of Part III and Part IIIA.—PART III and PART IIIA of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

86. Omission of IV.—PART IV of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

87. Amendment of section 102.—In section 102 of the Insurance Act, for the words “not exceeding five lakh rupees for each such failure and punishable with fine”, the words “of one lakh rupees for each day during which such failure continues or one crore rupees, whichever is less” shall be substituted.

88. Substitution of new sections for sections 103 and 104.—For sections 103 and 104 of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“**103. Penalty for carrying on insurance business in contravention of section 3.**—If a person carries on the business of insurance without obtaining a certificate of registration under section 3, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding rupees twenty-five crores and with imprisonment which may extend to ten years.

104. Penalty for contravention of sections 27, 27A, 27B, 27D and 27E.—If a person fails to comply with the provisions of section 27, section 27A, section 27B, section 27D and section 27E, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five crore rupees.”.

89. Amendment of section 105.—In section 105 of the Insurance Act, for the words “not exceeding two lakh rupees for each such failure”, the words “not exceeding one crore rupees” shall be substituted.

90. Substitution of new sections for sections 105B and 105C.—For sections 105B and 105C of the Insurance Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“**105B. Penalty for failure to comply with sections 32B, 32C and 32D.**—If an insurer fails to comply with the provisions of section 32B, section 32C and section 32D, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five crore rupees.

105C. Power to adjudicate.—(1) For the purpose of adjudication under sub-section (2) of section 2CB, sub-section (4) of section 34B, sub-section (5) of section 40, sub-section (2) of section 41, sub-sections (4) and (5) of section 42, sub-sections (8) and (9) of section 42D, section 52F and section 105B, the Authority, shall appoint any officer not below the rank of a Joint Director or an equivalent officer to be an adjudicating officer for holding an inquiry in the prescribed manner after giving any person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(2) Upon receipt of the inquiry report from the officer so appointed, the Authority, after giving an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned, may impose any penalty provided in sections aforesaid.

(3) While holding an inquiry, the adjudicating officer shall have power to summon and enforce the attendance of any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case to give evidence or to produce any document which in the opinion of the adjudicating officer, may be useful for or relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry and if on such inquiry, is satisfied that the person has failed to comply with the provisions of any of the sections specified in sub-section (1), he may recommend such penalty as he thinks fit in accordance with the provisions of any of those sections.

105D. Factors to be taken into account by the adjudicating officer.—While recommending the quantum of penalty under section 105C, the adjudicating officer and while imposing such penalty, the Authority shall have due regard to the following factors, namely :—

- (a) the amount of disproportionate gain or unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, made as a result of the default ;
- (b) the amount of loss caused to the policyholders as a result of the default ; and
- (c) the repetitive nature of default.”.

91. Amendment of section 106A.—In section 106A of the Insurance Act, in sub-section (12),—

- (i) clauses (a), (b) and (f) shall be omitted ;
- (ii) in clause (d), the words “or a provident society” shall be omitted.

92. Omission of sections 107 and 107a.—Sections 107 and 107A of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

93. Substitution of new section for section 109.—For section 109 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**109. Cognizance of offence.**—No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act or any rules or any regulations made thereunder, save on a complaint made by an officer of the Authority or by any person authorised by it.”.

94. Substitution of new section for section 110.—For section 110 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**110. Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal.**—(1) Any person aggrieved—

(a) by an order of the Authority made on and after the commencement of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015, or under this Act, the rules or regulations made thereunder ; or

(b) by an order made by the Authority by way of adjudication under this Act, may prefer an appeal to the Securities Appellate Tribunal having jurisdiction in the matter.

(2) Every appeal made under sub-section (1) shall be filed within a period of forty-five days from the date on which a copy of the order made by the Authority is received by him and it shall be in such a form and be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed :

Provided that the Securities Appellate Tribunal may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of forty-five days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing it within that period.

(3) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (1), the Securities Appellate Tribunal may, after giving parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders thereon as it thinks fit, conforming, modifying or setting aside the order appealed against.

(4) The Securities Appellate Tribunal shall make available copy of order made by it to the Authority and parties.

(5) The appeal filed before the Securities Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose of the appeal finally within six months from the date of receipt of appeal.

(6) The procedure for filing and disposing of an appeal shall be such as may be prescribed.

(7) The provision contained in section 15U, section 15V, section 15W, section 15Y and section 15Z of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992) shall apply to the appeals arising out of the provisions of this Act, as they apply to the appeals under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.”.

95. Omission of section 110E.—Section 110E of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

96. Omission of sections 110G and 110H.—Sections 110G and 110H of the Insurance Act shall be omitted.

97. Insertion of new section 110HA.—After section 110H of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“110HA. Penalty to be recoverable as arrear of land revenue.—Any penalty imposed by the Authority under this Act shall be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue.”.

98. Amendment of section 111.—In section 111 of the Insurance Act,—

(a) in sub-section (1), the words “or provident society” occurring at both the places shall be omitted ;

(b) in sub-section (2), in the proviso, the words “or to a provident society” shall be omitted.

99. Substitution of new section for section 113.—For section 113 of the Insurance Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“113. Acquisition of surrender value by policy.—(1) A policy of life insurance shall acquire surrender value as per the norms specified by the regulations.

(2) Every policy of life insurance shall contain the formula as approved by the Authority for calculation of guaranteed surrender value of the policy.

(3) Notwithstanding any contract to the contrary, a policy of life insurance under a non-linked plan which has acquired a surrender value shall not lapse by reason of non-payment of further premiums but shall be kept in force to the extent of paid-up sum insured, calculated by means of a formula as approved by the Authority and contained in the policy and the reversionary bonuses that have already been attached to the policy :

Provided that a policy of life insurance under a linked plan shall be kept in force in the manner as may be specified by the regulations.

(4) The provisions of sub-section (3) shall not apply—

(i) where the paid-up sum insured by a policy, inclusive of attached bonuses, is less than the amount specified by the Authority or takes the form of annuity of amount less than the amount specified by the Authority ; or

(ii) when the parties, after the default has occurred in payment of the premium, agree in writing to other arrangement.”.

100. Amendment of section 114.—In section 114 of the Insurance Act,—

(a) in sub-section (2),—

(i) clause (aa) shall be omitted ;

(ii) after clause (aa) as so omitted, the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“*(aaa)* the manner of ownership and control of Indian insurance company under sub-clause (b) of clause (7A) of section 2 ;” ;

(iii) clause (c) and clause (f) shall be omitted ;

(iv) after clause (l), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“*(la)* the manner of inquiry under sub-section (1) of section 105C ;“*(lb)* the form in which an appeal may be preferred under sub-section (2) and the fee payable in respect of such appeal and the procedure for filing and disposing of an appeal under sub-section (6) of section 110 ;” ;

(b) in sub-section (3), the words, brackets, figures and letters “or under sub-section (1) of section 64UB and every regulation made under sub-section (3) of section 64UB” shall be omitted.

101. Amendment of section 114A.—In section 114A of the Insurance Act, in sub-section (2),—

(i) for clauses (a) and (aa), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“*(a)* manner of making application for registration and documents to be accompanied under sub-section (2) of section 3 ;” ;

(ii) for clause (d), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“*(d)* such annual fee to the Authority and manner of payment under sub-section (1) of section 3A ;” ;

(iii) after clause (d), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“*(da)* such minimum annuity and other benefits to be secured by the insurer under section 4 ;“*(dca)* determination of preliminary expenses that may be excluded for calculation of the stipulated paid-up equity capital for the insurers under sub-section (1) of section 6 ;“*(db)* such equity capital and such forms of capital including hybrid capital required under sub-section (1) of section 6A ;” ;

(iv) clause (e) shall be omitted ;

(v) after clause (e), as so omitted, the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“*(ea)* separation of account of all receipts and payments in respect of each classes and sub-classes of insurance business as required under sub-section (1) and sub-section (2AA) of section 10 ;

and its waiver under the said section ;” ;

(vi) in clause (f), for the words, brackets, figures and letter “under sub-section (1A) of section 11”, the words, brackets and figures “under sub-section (1) of section 11” shall be substituted ;

(vii) for clause (g), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“*(g)* the manner in which an abstract of the report of the actuary to be specified and the form and manner in which the statement referred to in section 13 shall be appended ;” ;

(viii) after clause (g), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“*(ga)* maintenance of records of policies and claims under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 14 ;

(gb) manner and form of issuance of policies in electronic form under sub-section (2) of section 14 ;” ;

(ix) for clause (h), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(h) the fee for procuring a copy of return or any part thereof under sub-section (1) of section 20 ;” ;

(x) for clause (i), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(i) investment of assets and further provisions regarding investments by an insurer and investment by insurers in certain cases under sections 27, 27A, 27B, 27C and time, manner and other conditions of investment of assets under section 27D ;” ;

(xi) for clauses (ia), (ib), (ic), (id) and (ie), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely :—

“(ia) the form in which a return giving details of investments made, time and manner including its authentication under section 28 ;

(ib) the loans including the loans sanctioned to the full-time employees of the insurer under clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 29 ;

(ic) the sum to be paid by the insurer to any person under section 31B ;

(id) the obligation of insurer in respect of rural or social or unorganised sector and backward classes under sections 32B and 32C ;

(ie) the minimum percentage of insurance business in third party risks of motor vehicles under section 32D ;” ;

(xii) for clause (j), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(j) the minimum information to be maintained by insurers or intermediary or insurance intermediary, as the case may be, in their books, the manner in which such information shall be maintained, the checks and other verifications in that connection and all other matters incidental thereto under sub-section (7) of section 33 ;” ;

(xiii) after clause (j), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“(ja) the form in which balance-sheets in respect of the insurance business of each of the insurers concerned and the manner in which actuarial reports and abstracts in respect of the life insurance business are to be prepared under clauses (b) and (c) of sub-section (3) of section 35 ;

(jb) the manner of assessment of compensation under the proviso to sub-section (4A) of section 37A ;

(jc) the fee to be charged by the insurer under sub-section (3) of section 39 ;

(jd) the manner and amount of remuneration or reward to be paid or received by way of commission or otherwise to an insurance agent or an intermediary or insurance intermediary under section 40 ;

(je) the manner and form of expenses of management under sections 40B and 40C ;” ;

(xiv) clauses (k) and (l) shall be omitted ;

(xv) for clause (m), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(m) the requisite qualifications or practical training or examination to be passed for appointment as an insurance agent under clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 42 ;” ;

(xvi) clause (n) shall be omitted ;

(xvii) for clause (o), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(o) the code of conduct under clause (h) of sub-section (3) of section 42 ;” ;

(xviii) clause (p) shall be omitted ;

(xix) clause (va) shall be omitted ;

(xx) in clause (vb), the words, brackets and figure “sub-section (2) of” shall be omitted ;

(xxi) clause (w) shall be omitted ;

(xxii) for clause (x), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely :—

“(x) academic qualifications and code of conduct for surveyors and loss assessors under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 64UM ;

(xa) the period for which a person may act as a surveyor or loss assessor under sub-section (3) of section 64UM ;” ;

(xxiii) for clause (y), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(y) the manner of exclusion of certain assets under sub-section (1), the manner of valuation of liabilities under sub-section (2) and time for furnishing statement under sub-section (3) of section 64V ;” ;

(xxiv) for clause (za), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(za) the matters specified under sub-section (1) of section 64VA relating to sufficiency of assets ;” ;

(xxv) after clause (zaa), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“(zab) the form, time, manner including authentication of the return giving details of solvency margin under sub-section (9) of section 64VA ;

(zac) the manner of opening and closing places of business under section 64VC ;” ;

(xxvi) after clause (zb), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(zba) the norms for surrender value of life insurance policy under sub-section (1) of section 113 ;”.

102. Omission of Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Schedules.—In the Insurance Act, the Fifth Schedule, the Sixth Schedule and the Eighth Schedule shall be omitted.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) ACT, 1972

103. Insertion of a new section 10B.—In the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, (57 of 1972) after section 10A, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“**10B. Enhancement of equity capital of General Insurance companies.**—The General Insurance Corporation and the insurance companies specified in section 10A may, raise their capital for increasing their business in rural and social sectors, to meet solvency margin and such other purposes, as the Central Government may empower in this behalf :

Provided that the shareholding of the Central Government shall not be less than fifty one per cent, at any time.”.

104. Omission of section 25.—Section 25 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 (57 of 1972) shall be omitted.

CHAPTER IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT, 1999

105. Amendment of section 2.—In section 2 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, (41 of 1999) in sub-section (1),—

(i) in clause (b), after the words “Development Authority”, the words “of India”, shall be inserted ;

(ii) for clause (f), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(f) “Intermediary” or “insurance intermediary” includes insurance brokers, re-insurance brokers, insurance consultants, corporate agents, third party administrator, surveyors and loss assessors and such other entities, as may be notified by the Authority from time to time.’.

106. Amendment of section 3.—In section 3 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (41 of 1999), in sub-section (1), after the words “Development Authority” the words “of India” shall be inserted.

107. Amendment of section 16.—In section 16 of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (41 of 1999), in sub-section (1), clause (c) shall be omitted.

108. Repeal and savings.—(1) The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014, (Ord. 8 of 2014) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Insurance Act, 1938 (4 of 1938), the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 (57 of 1972) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (41 of 1999) as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the said Acts, as amended by this Act.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 27th March 2015/Chaitra 6, 1937 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 26th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information :—

THE MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION)
AMENDMENT ACT, 2015

(No. 10 of 2015)

[26th March 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 12th day of January, 2015.

2. Amendment of section 3.—In the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 3,—

(i) after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

‘(ea) “notified minerals” means any mineral specified in the Fourth Schedule ;’;

(ii) after clause (g), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

‘(ga) “prospecting licence-cum-mining lease” means a two stage concession granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations followed by mining operations ;’;

(iii) in clause (hb), the word “and”, occurring at the end, shall be omitted ;

(iv) after clause (hb), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

‘(hc) “Special Court” means a Court of Session designated as Special Court under sub-section (1) of section 30B ; and’.

3. Amendment of section 4.—In section 4 of the principal Act, in the second proviso to sub-section (1), for the words and figures “section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956”, (1 of 1956) the words, brackets and figures “clause (45) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, (18 of 2013) and any such entity that may be notified for this purpose by the Central Government” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 4A.—In section 4A of the principal Act, in sub-section (4), for the provisos, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :—

“Provided that the State Government may, on an application made by the holder of such lease before it lapses and on being satisfied that it will not be possible for the holder of the lease to undertake mining operations or to continue such operations for reasons beyond his control, make an order, within a period of three months from the date of receiving of such application, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, to the effect that such lease shall not lapse :

Provided further that such lease shall lapse on failure to undertake mining operations or inability to continue the same before the end of a period of six months from the date of the order of the State Government :

Provided also that the State Government may, on an application made by the holder of a lease submitted within a period of six months from the date of its lapse and on being satisfied that such non-commencement or discontinuance was due to reasons beyond the

control of the holder of the lease, revive the lease within a period of three months from the date of receiving the application from such prospective or retrospective date as it thinks fit but not earlier than the date of lapse of the lease :

Provided also that no lease shall be revived under the third proviso for more than twice during the entire period of the lease.”.

5. Amendment of section 5.—In section 5 of the principal Act,—

(A) in sub-section (1),—

(i) in clause (a), for the words, brackets and figures “sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956”, (1 of 1956) the words, brackets and figures “clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013” (18 of 2013) shall be substituted ;

(ii) for the proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely :—

“Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in Part A and Part B of the First Schedule, no reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.” ;

(B) in sub-section (2),—

(i) for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(a) there is evidence to show the existence of mineral contents in the area for which the application for a mining lease has been made in accordance with such parameters as may be prescribed for this purpose by the Central Government ;” ;

(ii) after clause (b), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that a mining lease may be granted upon the filing of a mining plan in accordance with a system established by the State Government for preparation, certification, and monitoring of such plan, with the approval of the Central Government.”.

6. Amendment of section 6.—In section 6 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), in clause (b), for the proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely :—

“Provided that if the Central Government is of the opinion that in the interest of the development of any mineral or industry, it is necessary so to do, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, increase the aforesaid area limits in respect of prospecting licence or mining lease, in so far as it pertains to any particular mineral, or to any specified category of deposits of such mineral, or to any particular mineral located in any particular area.”.

7. Substitution of new section for section 8.—For section 8 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**8. Periods for which mining leases may be granted or renewed.**—(1) The provisions of this section shall apply to minerals specified in Part A of the First Schedule.

(2) The maximum period for which a mining lease may be granted shall not exceed thirty years :

Provided that the minimum period for which any such mining lease may be granted shall not be less than twenty years.

(3) A mining lease may be renewed for a period not exceeding twenty years with the previous approval of the Central Government.”.

8. Insertion of new section 8A.—After section 8 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“**8A. Period of grant of a mining lease for minerals other than coal, lignite and atomic minerals.**—(1) The provisions of this section shall apply to minerals other than those specified in Part A and Part B of the First Schedule.

(2) On and from the date of the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, all mining leases shall be granted for the period of fifty years.

(3) All mining leases granted before the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 shall be deemed to have been granted for a period of fifty years.

(4) On the expiry of the lease period, the lease shall be put up for auction as per the procedure specified in this Act.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (2), (3) and sub-section (4), the period of lease granted before the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, where mineral is used for captive purpose, shall be extended and be deemed to have been extended up to a period ending on the 31st March, 2030 with effect from the date of expiry of the period of renewal last made or till the completion of renewal period, if any, or a period of fifty years from the date of grant of such lease, whichever is later, subject to the condition that all the terms and conditions of the lease have been complied with.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (2), (3) and sub-section (4), the period of lease granted before the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, where mineral is used for other than captive purpose, shall be extended and be deemed to have been extended up to a period ending on the 31 st March, 2020 with effect from the date of expiry of the period of renewal last made or till the completion of renewal period, if any, or a period of fifty years from the date of grant of such lease, whichever is later, subject to the condition that all the terms and conditions of the lease have been complied with.

(7) Any holder of a lease granted, where mineral is used for captive purpose, shall have the right of first refusal at the time of auction held for such lease after the expiry of the lease period.

(8) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the period of mining leases, including existing mining leases, of Government companies or corporations shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(9) The provisions of this section, notwithstanding anything contained therein, shall not apply to a mining lease granted before the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, for which renewal has been rejected, or which has been determined, or lapsed. ”.

9. Insertion of new sections 9B and 9C.—After section 9A of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

“9B. District Mineral Foundation.—(1) In any district affected by mining related operations, the State Government shall, by notification, establish a trust, as a non-profit body, to be called the District Mineral Foundation.

(2) The object of the District Mineral Foundation shall be to work for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.

(3) The composition and functions of the District Mineral Foundation shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government.

(4) The State Government while making rules under sub-sections (2) and (3) shall be guided by the provisions contained in article 244 read with Fifth and Sixth Schedules to the Constitution relating to administration of the Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas and the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (40 of 1996) and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. (2 of 2007.)

(5) The holder of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease granted on or after the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to the District Mineral Foundation of the district in which the mining operations are carried on, an amount which

is equivalent to such percentage of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule, not exceeding one-third of such royalty, as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(6) The holder of a mining lease granted before the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to the District Mineral Foundation of the district in which the mining operations are carried on, an amount not exceeding the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule in such manner and subject to the categorisation of the mining leases and the amounts payable by the various categories of lease holders, as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

9C. National Mineral Exploration Trust.—(1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish a Trust, as a non-profit body, to be called the National Mineral Exploration Trust.

(2) The object of the Trust shall be to use the funds accrued to the Trust for the purposes of regional and detailed exploration in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(3) The composition and functions of the Trust shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(4) The holder of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall pay to the Trust, a sum equivalent to two per cent. of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.”.

10. Insertion of new sections 10A, 10B and 10C.—After section 10 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

“10A. Rights of existing concession holders and applicants.—(1) All applications received prior to the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, shall become ineligible.

(2) Without prejudice to sub-section (1), the following shall remain eligible on and from the date of commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 :—

(a) applications received under section 11A of this Act ;

(b) where before the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 a reconnaissance permit or prospecting licence has been granted in respect of any land for any mineral, the permit holder or the licensee shall have a right for obtaining a prospecting licence followed by a mining lease, or a mining lease, as the case may be, in respect of that mineral in that land, if the State Government is satisfied that the permit holder or the licensee, as the case may be,—

(i) has undertaken reconnaissance operations or prospecting operations, as the case may be, to establish the existence of mineral contents in such land in accordance with such parameters as may be prescribed by the Central Government ;

(ii) has not committed any breach of the terms and conditions of the reconnaissance permit or the prospecting licence ;

(iii) has not become ineligible under the provisions of this Act ; and

(iv) has not failed to apply for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be, within a period of three months after the expiry of reconnaissance permit or prospecting licence, as the case may be, or within such further period not exceeding six months as may be extended by the State Government ;

(c) where the Central Government has communicated previous approval as required under sub-section (1) of section 5 for grant of a mining lease, or if a letter of intent (by whatever name called) has been issued by the State Government to grant a mining lease, before the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Development and

Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, the mining lease shall be granted subject to fulfilment of the conditions of the previous approval or of the letter of intent within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the said Act :

Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted under clause (b) of this sub-section except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

10B. *Grant of mining lease in respect of notified minerals through auction.*—(1) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to cases covered by section 10A or section 17A or to minerals specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule or to land in respect of which the minerals do not vest in the Government.

(2) Where there is inadequate evidence to show the existence of mineral contents of any notified mineral in respect of any area, a State Government may, after obtaining the previous approval of the Central Government, grant a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease for the said notified mineral in such area in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 11.

(3) In areas where the existence of mineral contents of any notified mineral is established in the manner prescribed by the Central Government, the State Government shall notify such areas for grant of mining leases for such notified mineral, the terms and conditions subject to which such mining leases shall be granted, and any other relevant conditions, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(4) For the purpose of granting a mining lease in respect of any notified mineral in such notified area, the State Government shall select, through auction by a method of competitive bidding, including e-auction, an applicant who fulfils the eligibility conditions as specified in this Act.

(5) The Central Government shall prescribe the terms and conditions, and procedure, subject to which the auction shall be conducted, including the bidding parameters for the selection, which may include a share in the production of the mineral, or any payment linked to the royalty payable, or any other relevant parameter, or any combination or modification of them.

(6) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (5), the Central Government shall, if it is of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient to do so, prescribe terms and conditions, procedure and bidding parameters in respect of categories of minerals, size and area of mineral deposits and a State or States, subject to which the auction shall be conducted :

Provided that the terms and conditions may include the reservation of any particular mine or mines for a particular end-use and subject to such condition which allow only such eligible end users to participate in the auction.

(7) The State Government shall grant a mining lease to an applicant selected in accordance with the procedure laid down in this section in respect of such notified mineral in any notified area.

10C. *Grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permits.*—(1) Non-exclusive reconnaissance permits may be granted in respect of any notified mineral or non-notified mineral or a group of specified minerals, other than minerals specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(2) The holder of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall not be entitled to make any claim for the grant of any prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or a mining lease.”

11. *Substitution of new section for section 11.*—For section 11 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**11.** *Grant of prospecting licence-cum-mining lease through auction in respect of minerals other than notified minerals.*—(1) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to cases covered by section 10A or section 17A or to minerals specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule or to land in respect of which minerals do not vest in the Government.

(2) In areas where there is evidence to show the existence of mineral contents as required by clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 5, the State Government shall grant a mining lease for minerals other than notified minerals following the procedure laid down in section 10B.

(3) In areas where there is inadequate evidence to show the existence of mineral contents as required under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 5, the State Government shall grant a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease for minerals other than notified minerals in accordance with the procedure laid down in this section.

(4) The State Government shall notify the areas in which prospecting licence-cum-mining leases shall be granted for any minerals other than notified minerals, the terms and conditions subject to which such prospecting licence-cum-mining leases shall be granted, and any other relevant conditions, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(5) For the purpose of granting prospecting licence-cum-mining leases, the State Government shall select, through auction by method of competitive bidding, including e-auction, an applicant who fulfils the eligibility conditions as specified in this Act.

(6) The Central Government shall prescribe the terms and conditions, and procedure, subject to which the auction shall be conducted, including the bidding parameters for the selection, which may include a share in the production of the mineral, or any payment linked to the royalty payable, or any other relevant parameter, or any combination or modification of them.

(7) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (6), the Central Government shall, if it is of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient to do so, prescribe terms and conditions, procedure and bidding parameters in respect of categories of minerals, size and area of mineral deposits and a State or States, subject to which the auction shall be conducted.

(8) The State Government shall grant a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease to an applicant selected in accordance with the procedure laid down in this section.

(9) The holder of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall be required to complete, within the period laid down in section 7, the prospecting operations satisfactorily as specified in the notice inviting applications.

(10) A holder of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, who completes the prospecting operation as laid down in sub-section (9) and establishes the existence of mineral contents in the area in conformity with such parameters as may be prescribed for this purpose by the Central Government, shall be required to apply for a mining lease for such area and shall have the right to get the mining lease and thereafter undertake mining operations in accordance with the provisions of this Act.”.

12. Insertion of new sections 11B and 11C.—After section 11A of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

“11B. Power of Central Government to make rules for regulating automic minerals specified under Part B of first Schedule.—The Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, make rules for regulating the grant of mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minerals specified in Part B of the First Schedule and for purposes connected therewith, and the State Government shall grant a reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of any such mineral in accordance with such rules.

11C. Power of Central Government to amend first Schedule and Fourth Schedule.—The Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, amend the First Schedule and the Fourth Schedule so as to add or delete any mineral as may be specified in the notification.”.

13. Insertion of new section 12A.—After section 12 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“12A. Transfer of mineral concessions.—(1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to minerals specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule.

(2) A holder of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease granted in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 10B or section 11 may, with the previous approval of the State Government, transfer his mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, as the case may be, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government, to any person eligible to hold such mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(3) If the State Government does not convey its previous approval for transfer of such mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, as the case may be, within a period of ninety days from the date of receiving such notice, it shall be construed that the State Government has no objection to such transfer :

Provided that the holder of the original mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall intimate to the State Government the consideration payable by the successor-in-interest for the transfer, including the consideration in respect of the prospecting operations already undertaken and the reports and data generated during the operations.

(4) No such transfer of a mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, referred to in sub-section (2), shall take place if the State Government, within the notice period and for reasons to be communicated in writing, disapproves the transfer on the ground that the transferee is not eligible as per the provisions of this Act :

Provided that no such transfer of a mining lease or of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, shall be made in contravention of any condition subject to which the mining lease or the prospecting licence-cum-mining lease was granted.

(5) All transfers effected under this section shall be subject to the condition that the transferee has accepted all the conditions and liabilities under any law for the time being in force which the transferor was subject to in respect of such a mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, as the case may be.

(6) The transfer of mineral concessions shall be allowed only for concessions which are granted through auction.”.

14. Amendment of section 13.—In section 13 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),—

(i) after clause (j), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(jj) parameters of existence of mineral contents under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 5 ;” ;

(ii) in clause (qq), the word “and” occurring at the end shall be omitted ;

(iii) after clause (qq), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :—

“(qqa) the amount of payment to be made to the District Mineral Foundation under sub-sections (5) and (6) of section 9B ;

(qqb) the manner of usage of funds accrued to the National Mineral Exploration Trust under sub-section (2) of section 9C ;

(qqc) the composition and functions of the National Mineral Exploration Trust under sub-section (5) of section 9C ;

(qqd) the manner of payment of amount to the National Mineral Exploration Trust under sub-section (4) of section 9C ;

(qqe) the terms and conditions subject to which mining leases shall be granted under sub-section (3) of section 10B ;

(qqf) the terms and conditions, and procedure, subject to which the auction shall be conducted including the bidding parameters for the selection under sub-section (5) of section 10B ;

(*qqg*) the time limits for various stages in processing applications for grant of mining lease or prospecting licence-*cum*-mining lease under sections 10B, 11, 11A, 11B, and section 17A, and their renewals ;

(*qqh*) the terms and conditions for grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permits under sub-section (1) of section 10C ;

(*qqi*) the terms and conditions for grant of prospecting licence-*cum*-mining leases under sub-section (4) of section 11 ;

(*qqj*) the terms and conditions, and procedure, including the bidding parameters for the selection under sub-section (6) of section 11 ;

(*qqk*) the amount to be payable by a Government company or corporation, or a joint venture for grant of mining lease under sub-section (2C) of section 17A ; and”.

15. Amendment of section 15.—In section 15 of the principal Act, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(4) Without prejudice to sub-sections (1), (2) and sub-section (3), the State Government may, by notification, make rules for regulating the provisions of this Act for the following, namely :—

(a) the manner in which the District Mineral Foundation shall work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining under sub-section (2) of section 9B ;

(b) the composition and functions of the District Mineral Foundation under sub-section (3) of section 9B ; and

(c) the amount of payment to be made to the District Mineral Foundation by concession holders of minor minerals under section 15A.”.

16. Insertion of new section 15A.—After section 15 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“**15A. Power of State Government to collect funds for district Mineral foundation in case of minor minerals.**—The State Government may prescribe the payment by all holders of concessions related to minor minerals of amounts to the District Mineral Foundation of the district in which the mining operations are carried on.”.

17. Amendment of section 17A.—In section 17A of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely :—

“(2A) Where in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1A) or sub-section (2), the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, reserves any area for undertaking prospecting or mining operations, the State Government shall grant prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be, in respect of such area to such Government company or corporation :

Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in Part A and Part B of the First Schedule, the State Government shall grant the prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be, only after obtaining the previous approval of the Central Government.

(2B) Where the Government company or corporation is desirous of carrying out the prospecting operations or mining operations in a joint venture with other persons, the joint venture partner shall be selected through a competitive process, and such Government company or corporation shall hold more than seventy-four per cent, of the paid up share capital in such joint venture.

(2C) A mining lease granted to a Government company or corporation, or a joint venture, referred to in sub-sections (2A) and (2B), shall be granted on payment of such amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government.”.

18. Insertion of new section 20a.—After section 20 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“20A. Power of Central Government to issue directions.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government may issue such directions to the State Governments, as may be required for the conservation of mineral resources, or on any policy matter in the national interest, and for the scientific and sustainable development and exploitation of mineral resources.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, the Central Government may also issue directions in respect of the following matters, namely :—

- (i) improvement in procedure for grant of mineral concessions and to ensure co-ordination among agencies entrusted with according statutory clearances ;
- (ii) maintenance of internet-based databases including development and operation of a mining tenement system ;
- (iii) implementation and evaluation of sustainable development frameworks ;
- (iv) reduction in waste generation and related waste management practices and promotion of recycling of materials ;
- (v) minimising and mitigating adverse environmental impacts particularly in respect of ground water, air, ambient noise and land ;
- (vi) ensuring minimal ecological disturbance, in terms of bio-diversity, flora, fauna and habitat ;
- (vii) promoting restoration and reclamation activities so as to make optimal use of mined out land for the benefit of the local communities ; and
- (viii) such other matters as may be necessary for the purposes of implementation of this Act.”.

19. Amendment of section 21.—In section 21 of the principal Act, for sub-sections (1) and (2), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“(1) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (1A) of section 4 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the area.

(2) Any rule made under any provision of this Act may provide that any contravention thereof shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with additional fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention.”.

20. Substitution of new section for section 30.—For section 30 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“30. Power of revision by Central government.—The Central Government may, of its own motion or on an application made within the prescribed time by an aggrieved party,—

- (a) revise any order made by a State Government or other authority in exercise of the powers conferred on it by or under this Act with respect to any mineral other than a minor mineral ; or
- (b) where no such order has been made by the State Government or other authority in exercise of the powers conferred on it by or under this Act with respect to any mineral other than a minor mineral within the time prescribed therefor, pass such order as it may think fit and appropriate in the circumstances :

Provided that in cases covered by clause (b) the Central Government shall, before passing any order under this clause, give an opportunity of being heard or to represent in the matter.”.

21. Insertion of new sections 30B and 30C.—After section 30A of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

“30B. Constitution of Special Courts.—(1) The State Government may, for the purposes of providing speedy trial of offences for contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (1A) of section 4, constitute, by notification, as many Special Courts as may be necessary for such area or areas, as may be specified in the notification.

(2) A Special Court shall consist of a Judge who shall be appointed by the State Government with the concurrence of the High Court.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a judge of a Special Court unless he is or has been a District and Sessions Judge.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the order of the Special Court may prefer an appeal to the High Court within a period of sixty days from the date of such order.

30C. Special Courts to have powers of Court of Session.—Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, (2 of 1974) shall apply to the proceedings before the Special Court and for the purpose of the provisions of this Act, the Special Court shall be deemed to be a Court of Session and shall have all powers of a Court of Session and the person conducting a prosecution before the Special Court shall be deemed to be a public prosecutor.”.

22. Amendment of first Schedule.—In the principal Act, in the First Schedule, for the figures and brackets “8(2)”, the figures, brackets, letters and word “8(1), 8A(1), 10A, 10B(1), 10C(1), 11(1), 11B, 11C, 12A(1), and 17A(2A)” shall be substituted.

23. Insertion of a new Schedule.—In the principal Act, after the Third Schedule, the following Schedule shall be inserted, namely :—

“THE FOURTH SCHEDULE

[See clause (ea) of section 3]

Notified Minerals

1. Bauxite.
2. Iron ore.
3. Limestone.
4. Manganese ore.”.

24. Power to remove difficulties.—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, the Central Government may, by order, published in the *Official Gazette*, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of the said Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty :

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of the said Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

25. Repeal and savings.—(1) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2015, (Ord. 3 of 2015) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 30th March 2015/Chaitra 9, 1937 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 30th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information :—

THE COAL MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 2015

(No. 11 of 2015)

[30th March 2015.]

An Act to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilisation of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS the Supreme Court vide judgment dated 25th August, 2014 read with its order dated 24th September, 2014 has cancelled the allocation of coal blocks and issued directions with regard to such coal blocks and the Central Government in pursuance of the said directions has to take immediate action to implement the said order ;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient in public interest for the Central Government to take immediate action to allocate coal mines to successful bidders and allottees keeping in view the energy security of the country and to minimise any impact on core sectors such as steel, cement and power utilities, which are vital for the development of the nation ;

AND WHEREAS Parliament is competent to legislate under entry 54 of List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution for regulation of mines and mineral development to the

extent to which such regulation and development under the control of Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 21st day of October, 2014.

2. Declaration as to expediency of Union action.—It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that Union should take action for the development of Schedule I coal mines and extraction of coal on continuous basis for optimum utilisation.

3. Definitions.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “additional levy” means, the additional levy as determined by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012 as two hundred and ninety-five rupees per metric tonne of coal extracted ;

(b) “allotment order” means the allotment order issued under section 5 ;

(c) “appointed date” in relation to—

(i) Schedule I coal mines excluding Schedule II coal mines, shall be the 24th day of September, 2014 being the date on which the allocation of coal blocks to prior allottees stood cancelled ; and

(ii) Schedule II coal mines shall be the 1st day of April, 2015 being the date on which the allocation of coal blocks to prior allottees shall stand cancelled, in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court dated the 24th September, 2014 passed in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012 ;

(d) “bank” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (c) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ; (54 of 2002)

(e) “coal mining operations” means any operation undertaken for the purpose of winning coal ;

(f) “company” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 ; (18 of 2013)

(g) “corporation” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (11) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 ; (18 of 2013)

(h) “financial institution” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (m) of section 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ; (54 of 2002)

(i) “Government company” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (45) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 ; (18 of 2013)

(j) “mine infrastructure” includes mining infrastructure such as tangible assets used for coal mining operations, being civil works, workshops, immovable coal winning equipment, foundations, embankments, pavements, electrical systems, communication systems, relief centres, site administrative offices, fixed installations, coal handling arrangements, crushing and conveying systems, railway sidings, pits, shafts, inclines, underground transport systems, hauling systems (except movable equipment unless the same is embedded in land for permanent beneficial enjoyment thereof), land demarcated for afforestation and land for rehabilitation and resettlement of persons affected by coal mining operations under the relevant law ;

(k) “nominated authority” means the authority nominated by the Central Government under section 6 ;

(l) “notification” means a notification published in the *Official Gazette* ;

(m) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act ;

(n) “prior allottee” means prior allottee of Schedule I coal mines as listed therein who had been allotted coal mines between 1993 and 31st day of March, 2011, whose allotments have been cancelled pursuant to the judgment of the Supreme Court dated the 25th August, 2014 and its order dated 24th September, 2014 including those allotments which may have been de-allocated prior to and during the pendency of the Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012.

Explanation.—In case a mining lease has been executed in favour of a third party, subsequent to such allocation of Scheduled I coal mines, then, the third party shall be deemed to be the prior allottee ;

(o) “Schedule” means a Schedule appended to this Act ;

(p) “Schedule I coal mines” means,—

(i) all the coal mines and coal blocks the allocation of which was cancelled by the judgment dated 25th August, 2014 and its order dated 24th September, 2014 passed in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012, including those allotments which may have been de-allocated prior to and during the pendency of the said Writ Petition ;

(ii) all the coal bearing land acquired by the prior allottee and lands, in or adjacent to the coal mines used for coal mining operations acquired by the prior allottee ;

(iii) any existing mine infrastructure as defined in clause (j) ;

(q) “Schedule II coal mines” means the forty-two Schedule I coal mines listed in Schedule II which are the coal mines in relation to which the order of the Supreme Court dated 24th day of September, 2014 was made ;

(r) “Schedule III coal mines” means the thirty-two Schedule I coal mines listed in Schedule III or any other Schedule I coal mine as may be notified under sub-section (2) of section 7 ;

(s) “secured creditor” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (zd) of section 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ; (54 of 2002)

(t) “secured debt” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (ze) of section 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ; (54 of 2002)

(u) “security interest” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (zf) of section 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ; (54 of 2002)

(v) “specified end-use” means any of the following end-uses and the expression “specified end-user” shall with its grammatical variations be construed accordingly,—

(i) production of iron and steel ;

(ii) generation of power including the generation of power for captive use ;

(iii) washing of coal obtained from a mine ;

(iv) cement ;

(v) such other end-use as the Central Government may, by notification, specify ;

(w) “vesting order” means the vesting order issued under section 8.

(2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined, but defined in the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, (20 of 1957) the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 (26 of 1973) including any rules or regulations made thereunder, shall have the meanings, respectively assigned to them in those Acts.

CHAPTER II

AUCTION AND ALLOTMENT

4. *Eligibility to participate in auction and payment of fees.*—(1) Subject to the provisions of section 5, Schedule I coal mines shall be allocated by way of public auction in accordance with such rules, and on the payment of such fees which shall not exceed five crore rupees, as may be prescribed.

(2) Subject to the provisions in sub-section (3) of this section and section 5, the Central Government may, for the purpose of granting reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of any area containing coal, select any of the following companies through auction by competitive bidding, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed—

(a) a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or between the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or any other company incorporated in India ; or

(b) a company or a joint venture company formed by two or more companies, that carry on coal mining operations in India, in any form either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the permit, prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be, and the State Government shall grant such reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of any area containing coal to such company as selected through auction by competitive bidding under this section.

(3) Subject to the provisions of section 5, the following persons who fulfil such norms as may be prescribed, shall be eligible to bid in an auction of Schedule II coal mines and Schedule III coal mines and to engage in coal mining operations in the event they are successful bidders, namely :—

(a) a company engaged in specified end-use including a company having a coal linkage which has made such investment as may be prescribed.

Explanation.—A “company with a coal linkage” includes any such company whose application is pending with the Central Government on the date of commencement of this Act ;

(b) a joint venture company formed by two or more companies having a common specified end-use and are independently eligible to bid in accordance with this Act ;

(c) a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or with any other company having common specified end-use :

Provided that nothing contained in sub-section (2) shall apply to this sub-section.

(4) A prior allottee shall be eligible to participate in the auction process subject to payment of the additional levy within such period as may be prescribed and if the prior allottee has not paid such levy, then, the prior allottee, its promoter or any of its company of such prior allottee shall not be eligible to bid either by itself or by way of a joint venture.

(5) Any prior allottee who is convicted for an offence relating to coal block allocation and sentenced with imprisonment for more than three years, shall not be eligible to participate in the auction.

5. Allotment of mines to Government companies or corporation.—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions contained in sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 4, the Central Government may allot a Schedule I coal mine to a Government company or corporation or to a joint venture between two or more Government companies or corporations or to a company which has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects) from specified Schedule I coal mines by making an allotment order in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed and the State Government shall grant a reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of any area containing coal to such company or corporation :

Provided that the Government company or corporation may carry on Coal Mining in any form either for its own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the permit, prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be :

Provided further that no company other than a Government company or corporation shall hold more than twenty-six per cent, of the paid-up share capital in the Government company or corporation or in the joint venture between a Government company or corporation, either directly or through any of its subsidiary company or associate company :

Provided also that a joint venture of any two or more Government companies or corporations shall be prohibited from alienating or transferring any interest, except the taking of loans or advances from a bank or financial institution, in the joint venture of whatsoever nature including ownership in favour of a third party.

(2) No allotment under sub-section (1) shall be made to a prior allottee, if that allottee has not made the payment of the additional levy within the specified period.

6. Central Government to act through nominated authority.—(1) The Central Government shall appoint an officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India as the nominated authority who shall act for and on behalf of the Central Government for the purposes of this Act and shall exercise such powers as may be prescribed.

(2) The nominated authority may engage any expert having such qualifications and experience and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed to make recommendations to the authority for the conduct of auction and in drawing up of the vesting order or allotment order in relation to Schedule I coal mines.

(3) The Central Government shall act through the nominated authority for the following purposes, namely :—

- (a) conduct the auction process and allotment with the assistance of experts ;
- (b) execution of the vesting order for transfer and vesting of Schedule I coal mines pursuant to the auction ;
- (c) executing the allotment order for any Government company or corporation in pursuance of section 5 ;
- (d) recording and mutating incorporeal rights of whatsoever nature including, consents, permissions, permits, approvals, grants, registrations ;
- (e) collection of auction proceeds, adjustment of preferential payments and transfer of amount to the respective State Governments where Schedule I coal mine is located in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(4) The nominated authority shall complete the auction or execute the allotment orders of Schedule I coal mines within such time and in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

(5) The Central Government may appoint such other officers and staff as it may think fit to assist the nominated authority.

(6) The salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the nominated authority and such other officers and staff appointed under this section shall be such as may be prescribed.

(7) The nominated authority shall be bound by the written direction given by the Central Government on the question of policy.

7. Power to classify certain Schedule I coal mines by Central Government.—(1) The Central Government may, before notifying the particulars of auction, classify mines identified from Schedule I coal mines as earmarked for the same class of specified end-uses.

(2) The Central Government may in public interest, by notification, modify Schedule III coal mines by adding any other Schedule I coal mine for the purposes of specified end-use.

8. Nominated authority to issue vesting order or allotment order.—(1) The nominated authority shall notify the prior allottees of Schedule I coal mines to enable them to furnish information required for notifying the particulars of Schedule I coal mines to be auctioned in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

(2) The information required to be furnished under sub-section (1) shall be furnished within a period of fifteen days from the date of such notice.

(3) A successful bidder in an auction conducted on a competitive basis in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed, shall be entitled to the vesting of Schedule I coal mine for which it bid, pursuant to a vesting order drawn up in accordance with such rules.

(4) The vesting order shall transfer and vest upon the successful bidder, the following, namely :—

- (a) all the rights, title and interest of the prior allottee, in Schedule I coal mine concerned with the relevant auction ;
- (b) entitlement to a mining lease to be granted by the State Government ;
- (c) any statutory licence, permit, permission, approval or consent required to undertake coal mining operations in Schedule I coal mines if already issued to the prior allottee ;
- (d) rights appurtenant to the approved mining plan of the prior allottee ;
- (e) any right, entitlement or interest not specifically covered under clauses (a) to (d).

(5) The nominated authority shall, in consultation with the Central Government, determine the floor price or reserve price in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

(6) The successful bidder shall, prior to the issuance and execution of a vesting order, furnish a performance bank guarantee for an amount as notified in relation to Schedule I coal mine auctioned to such bidder within such time, form and manner as may be prescribed.

(7) After the issuance of a vesting order under this section and its filing with the Central Government and with the appropriate authority designated by the respective State Governments, the successful bidder shall be entitled to take possession of the Schedule I coal mine without let or hindrance.

(8) Upon the execution of the vesting order, the successful bidder of the Schedule I coal mine shall be granted a prospecting licence or a mining lease, as applicable, by the concerned State Government in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957).

(9) A Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or between the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or any other company incorporated in India, allotted a Schedule I coal mine shall be granted a prospecting licence or a mining lease, as applicable, by the concerned State Government in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957).

(10) In relation to Schedule II coal mines, the successful bidder which was a prior allottee, shall continue coal mining operations after the appointed date in terms of the approved mining plan, till the mining lease in terms of sub-section (8) is granted, upon the grant of a vesting order and to that extent, the successful bidder shall be deemed to have been granted a mining lease till the execution of the mining lease in terms of the said sub-section.

(11) In relation to Schedule II coal mines, the Government company or corporation which was a prior allottee can continue coal mining operations after the appointed date in terms of the approved mining plan, till the mining lease in terms of sub-section (9) is granted, upon execution of the allotment order and to that extent, the allottee shall be deemed to have been granted a mining lease till the execution of the mining lease in terms of the said sub-section.

(12) The provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) and sub-sections (4) to (7) (both inclusive) of this section as applicable to a vesting order, shall *mutatis mutandis* be also applicable to an allotment order.

9. Priority of disbursal of proceeds.—The proceeds arising out of land and mine infrastructure in relation to a Schedule I coal mine shall be disbursed maintaining, *inter alia*, the priority of payments in accordance with the relevant laws and such rules as may be prescribed—

(a) payment to secured creditors for any portion of the secured debt in relation to a Schedule I, coal mine which is unpaid as on the date of the vesting order ;

(b) compensation payable to the prior allottee in respect of the Schedule I coal mine.

CHAPTER III

TREATMENT OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PRIOR ALLOTTEES

10. Utilisation of movable property used in coal mining operations.—(1) A successful bidder or allottee in respect of Schedule I coal mines, may negotiate with prior allottee to own or utilise such movable property used in coal mining operations on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to by them.

(2) Where a successful bidder or allottee is not vested with any movable property of a Schedule I coal mine, then, he is not bound by any liabilities or obligations arising out of such ownership or contractual rights, obligations or liabilities which shall continue to remain with the prior allottee.

(3) In the event that the successful bidder or allottee is unable to satisfactorily negotiate with the prior allottee or any third party who has a contract with the prior allottee for the movable property, it shall be the obligation of the prior allottee or the third party to remove such movable property within a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of the vesting order, or the allotment order, as the case may be, and the successful bidder or allottee shall not be liable for any damage to such property.

(4) A successful bidder or allottee which has elected not to purchase or transfer or continue to use the movable property referred to in sub-section (1), shall prior to the execution of the vesting order or the allotment order, as the case may be, declare to the nominated authority that he intends to move and store such movable property of the prior allottee or such third party and after the date of the vesting order or the allotment order, as the case may be, the successful bidder or allottee shall be entitled to move and store such movable property, so as not to cause any impediment for coal mining operations.

(5) If a prior allottee or such third party which has contracted with the prior allottee for its movable property, fails to remove the movable property which the successful bidder or allottee has elected not to purchase or use in accordance with sub-section (4), then, after the period of seventy-five days from the vesting order or the allotment order, as the case may be, a successful bidder or allottee shall be entitled to dispose of such movable property which may be physically located within Schedule I coal mine, the successful bidder or the allottee, shall, in such event be entitled to appropriate the sale proceeds of such movable property disposed of to pay for any cost incurred by the successful bidder or allottee, for the removal, storage, sale and disposal of such movable property, as a first charge over the sale proceeds of such movable property :

Provided that the remaining sale proceeds after appropriation of costs, shall be paid by the successful bidder or allottee to the Central Government towards any compensation that may be payable to the owner of such movable property sold, upon establishment of title to such movable property in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed :

Provided further that if a third party contractor to the prior allottee owns such movable property, then, such third party shall be entitled to prove its right to receive compensation from the sale proceeds of the movable property sold as per this sub-section, in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

11. Discharge or adoption of third party contracts with prior allottees.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, a successful bidder or allottee, as the case may be, in respect of Schedule I coal mines, may elect, to adopt and continue such contracts which may be existing with any of the prior allottees in relation to coal mining operations and the same shall constitute a novation for the residual term or residual performance of such contract :

Provided that in such an event, the successful bidder or allottee or the prior allottee shall notify the nominated authority to include the vesting of any contracts adopted by the successful bidder.

(2) In the event that a successful bidder or allottee elects not to adopt or continue with existing contracts which had been entered into by the prior allottees with third parties, in that case all such contracts which have not been adopted or continued shall cease to be enforceable against the successful bidder or allottee in relation to the Schedule I coal mine and the remedy of such contracting parties shall be against the prior allottees.

12. Provisions in relation to secured creditors.—(1) The secured creditors of the prior allottees which had any security interest in any part of the land or mine infrastructure of a Schedule I coal mine shall be entitled to—

(a) continue with such facility agreements and security interest with the prior allottee if such prior allottee is a successful bidder or allottee ; and

(b) in the event that the prior allottee is not a successful bidder or allottee, then the security interest of such secured creditor shall only be satisfied out of the compensation payable to such prior allottee, to the extent determined in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed and the outstanding debt shall be recoverable from the prior allottee.

(2) The Central Government shall, taking into consideration the provisions contained in section 9, prescribe the manner in which the secured creditor shall be paid out of the compensation in respect of any prior allottee.

13. *Void alienations and permitted security interests.*—Any and all alienations of land and mine infrastructure and creation of any encumbrances of whatsoever nature thereon which relate to Schedule I coal mines, made by any prior allottee after the 25th day of August, 2014 shall be void, save and except any registered security interest and charge over the land and mine infrastructure as registered by a bank or a financial institution or any other secured lender.

14. *Liabilities of prior allottees.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no proceedings, orders of attachment, distress, receivership, execution or the like, suits for the recovery of money, enforcement of a security or guarantee (except as otherwise provided for under this Act), prior to the date of commencement of this Act shall lie, or be proceeded further with and no remedies shall be available against the successful bidder, or allottee, as the case may be, or against the land and mine infrastructure in respect of Schedule I coal mines.

(2) The proceedings as referred to in sub-section (1), shall continue as a personal remedy against the prior allottee but shall not be maintainable or continued against the land or mine infrastructure of Schedule I coal mine or the successful bidder or allottee, pursuant to this Act.

(3) Every liability of any prior allottee in relation to a Schedule I coal mine in respect of any period prior to the vesting order or allotment order, shall be the liability of such prior allottee and shall be enforceable against it and not against the successful bidder or allottee or the Central Government.

(4) All unsecured loans shall continue to remain the liability of the prior allottee.

(5) The additional levy imposed against the prior allottees of Schedule II coal mines shall continue to remain the liability of such prior allottees and such additional levy shall be collected by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.

(6) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that—

(a) no claim for wages, bonus, royalty, rate, rent, taxes, provident fund, pension, gratuity or any other dues in relation to a Schedule I coal mine in respect of any period prior to the date of vesting order or allotment order, as the case may be, shall be enforceable against the Central Government or the successful bidder or the allottee, as the case may be ;

(b) no award, decree, attachment or order of any court, tribunal or other authority in relation to any Schedule I coal mine passed prior to the date of commencement of this Act, in relation to the land and mine infrastructure of Schedule I coal mines, shall be enforceable against the Central Government or the successful bidder or the allottee, as the case may be ;

(c) no liability for the contravention of any provision of law for the time being in force, relating to any act or omission prior to the date of vesting order or allotment order, as the case may be, shall be enforceable against the successful bidder or allottee or the Central Government.

15. *Commissioner of payments to be appointed and his powers.*—(1) For the purposes of disbursing the amounts payable to the prior allottees of Schedule I coal mines, the Central Government shall appoint an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, to be the Commissioner of payments.

(2) The Central Government may appoint such other officers and staff as it may think fit to assist the Commissioner and thereupon the Commissioner may authorise one or more of such officers also to exercise all or any of the powers exercisable by him under this Act.

(3) Any officer authorised by the Commissioner to exercise any powers may exercise those powers in the same manner and with the same effect as if they have been conferred on him directly by this Act and not by way of authorisation.

(4) The salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Commissioner and other officers and staff appointed under this section shall be such as may be prescribed.

(5) The Central Government shall, within a period of thirty days from such date as may be notified, pay to the Commissioner for payment to the prior allottee, an amount equal to the compensation determined by the nominated authority.

(6) Separate records shall be maintained by the Commissioner in respect of each Schedule I coal mine in relation to which payments have been made to him under this Act.

16. Valuation of compensation for payment to prior allottee.—(1) The quantum of compensation for the land in relation to Schedule I coal mines shall be as per the registered sale deeds lodged with the nominated authority in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed, together with twelve per cent, simple interest from the date of such purchase or acquisition, till the date of the execution of the vesting order or the allotment order, as the case may be.

(2) The quantum of compensation for the mine infrastructure in relation to Schedule I coal mines shall be determined as per the written down value reflected in the statutorily audited balance sheet of the previous financial year in accordance with such rules and in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) If the successful bidder or allottee is a prior allottee of any of the Schedule I coal mines, then, the compensation payable to such successful bidder or allottee shall be set off or adjusted against the auction sum or the allotment sum payable by such successful bidder or allottee, as the case may be, for any of the Schedule I coal mines.

(4) The prior allottee shall not be entitled to compensation till the additional levy has been paid.

CHAPTER IV

POWERS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AFTER THE APPOINTED DATE

17. Responsibility of Central Government after appointed date.—(1) On and from the appointed date, the Central Government or a company owned by the Central Government shall be deemed to have become the lessee or licensee of the State Government in relation to each of the Schedule II coal mines, in respect of which a mining lease or prospecting licence has been granted prior to the date of commencement of this Act, as if a mining lease or prospecting licence in relation to such coal mine had been granted to the Central Government or a company owned by the Central Government and the period of such lease or licence shall be the maximum period for which such lease or licence could have been granted by the State Government under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, and thereupon all the rights under such mining lease, including surface, underground and other rights shall be deemed to have been transferred to, and vested in, the Central Government or a company owned by the Central Government.

(2) On the expiry of the term of any lease or licence, referred to in sub-section (1), such lease or licence shall be renewed, by the State Government, in consultation with the Central Government for the maximum period for which such lease or licence can be renewed under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

(3) As it is considered expedient and necessary in the public interest and in view of the difficult situation which has arisen, the powers of the State Government, under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, (67 of 1957) to prematurely terminate a prospecting licence or mining lease, shall stand suspended, in relation to Schedule I coal mines, for a period of one year from the date of commencement of this Act or such other period as may be notified by the Central Government.

18. Central Government to appoint designated custodian.—(1) On and from the appointed date, if the auction or allotment of Schedule I coal mines is not complete, the Central Government shall appoint any person as a designated custodian to manage and operate such coal mines as may be notified by the Central Government.

(2) The designated custodian shall act for and on behalf of the Central Government in respect of the notified coal mines under sub-section (1) to operate and manage such Schedule I coal mines in such manner as may be notified, till the completion of the auction of such coal mines or allotment under section 4 and section 5 read with section 8, as the case may be.

19. Powers and functions of designated custodian in respect of Schedule II coal mines.—(1) The designated custodian appointed under sub-section (1) of section 18, shall be entitled to take control and possession of all lands, in or adjacent to Schedule II coal mines, and used for coal mining operations and the mine infrastructure in relation to Schedule II coal mine, on behalf of the Central Government.

(2) The designated custodian may direct the prior allottees or any other persons in charge of the management of the Schedule II coal mines and coal mining operations immediately before the appointed date to provide the requisite manpower, as may be necessary, to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal.

(3) The designated custodian shall receive, to the exclusion of all other persons, any monies due to Schedule II coal mines, notwithstanding cases where such receipt pertains to a transaction made at any time before the appointed date.

(4) The designated custodian may call for any information, records and documents in relation to Schedule II coal mines and coal mining operations from any or all such persons who were in charge of the management and operation of such Schedule II coal mines prior to the appointed date, and such persons shall be bound to deliver to the designated custodian all such documents in their custody relating to Schedule II coal mines.

(5) The designated custodian may appoint such consultants or experts, as may be necessary, in relation to the management and operation of Schedule II coal mines.

(6) The designated custodian shall transfer the management and operation of any Schedule II coal mines to such person in such manner as may be prescribed.

(7) The designated custodian shall have rights, liabilities and obligations as a prior allottee or a successful bidder in respect of coal mines entrusted to it under section 18, to be exercised and discharged in such manner as may be prescribed.

(8) The designated custodian shall have the power to perform such other functions which may be consequential or incidental to the functions specified under this section.

(9) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the designated custodian shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time.

CHAPTER V

CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS

20. Power of Central Government to approve certain arrangements.—(1) A successful bidder or allottee or coal linkage holder shall, with the prior approval of the Central Government and in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed, be entitled to enter into certain agreements or arrangements with other successful bidder or allottee or coal linkage holder, as the case may be, for optimum utilisation of coal mine for the same end-uses in the public interest and to achieve cost efficiencies.

(2) A successful bidder or allottee may also use the coal mine from a particular Schedule I coal mine for any of its plants engaged in common specified end-uses, in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

21. Acquisition of land.—(1) All existing land acquisition proceedings under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, (30 of 2013) in relation to Schedule I coal mines, shall continue in respect of such areas of land in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

(2) All such areas of land which are not subject matter of land acquisition proceedings, in relation to the coal mines, under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013) may be proceeded with by the Central Government in terms of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. (20 of 1957)

(3) The State Governments which have initiated land acquisition proceedings under provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition,

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013) and all such lands which are also subject matter of the said Act in respect of Schedule I coal mines, shall—

(a) not transfer any land to the prior allottees which have been acquired under the said Act ;

(b) continue the land acquisition proceedings till the appointed date ;

(c) for such Schedule I coal mines which have not vested in the successful bidder or the allottee, as the case may be, by the appointed date, continue the land acquisition proceedings for and on behalf of the Central Government ;

(d) upon the vesting or the allotment, as the case may be, after the appointed date, continue such land acquisition proceedings on behalf of the successful bidder or the allottee.

22. Realisation of additional levy.—If a prior allottee of Schedule II coal mine fails to deposit the additional levy with the Central Government within the specified time, then, such additional levy shall be realised as the arrears of land revenue.

23. Penalties for certain offences.—If any person—

(a) obstructs or causes any impediment in taking possession or in the management and operation of the Schedule I coal mines by the Central Government or the designated custodian ; or

(b) fails to deliver to the designated custodian any books of account, registers or any other document in his custody relating to Schedule I coal mines and coal mining operations in respect of the management of which the designated custodian has been appointed ; or

(c) destroys or misuses any mine infrastructure or coal stock ; or

(d) retains any property of such coal mine or removes or destroys it,

he and any officer-in-default of the company shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with the minimum fine of one lakh rupees per day and in the case of continuing failure, with a maximum fine of two lakh rupees for every day during which the failure continues or with both, depending upon the nature of the offence.

24. Penalty for failure to comply with directions of Central Government.—If any person fails to comply, without reasonable cause, with a direction given by the Central Government or nominated authority or the designated custodian, he shall be punishable with a fine of one lakh rupees and in the case of continuing failure with a maximum fine of two lakh rupees for every day during which the failure continues, depending upon the nature of the offence.

25. Offences by companies.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of business of the company as well as the company shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly :

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge and that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

26. Cognizance of offences.—No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act or any rules made thereunder except upon complaint in writing made by a person authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or nominated authority or the designated custodian.

27. *Dispute settlement and Bar of Jurisdiction of civil courts.*—(1) Any dispute arising out of any action of the Central Government, nominated authority or Commissioner of payment or designated custodian, or any dispute between the successful bidder or allottee and prior allottee arising out of any issue connected with the Act shall be adjudicated by the Tribunal constituted under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 (20 of 1957).

(2) Where the Central Government is of the opinion that any dispute arising out of any issue connected with the Act exists or is apprehended and the dispute should be adjudicated by the Tribunal referred to in sub-section (1), then, the Central Government may by order in writing, refer the dispute or any matter appearing to be connected with, or relevant to, the dispute, to the Tribunal for adjudication.

(3) The Tribunal referred to in sub-section (1) shall, after hearing the parties to the dispute, make an award in writing within a period of ninety days from the institution or reference of the dispute.

(4) On and from the commencement of the Act, no court or other authority, except the Supreme Court and a High Court, shall have, or be entitled to exercise, any jurisdiction, powers or authority, in relation to matters connected with the Act.

28. *Protection of action taken in good faith.*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government, nominated authority, commissioner of payment, or designated custodian or any person acting on their behalf, in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act.

29. *Act to have overriding effect.*—The provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force, or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any such law.

30. *Amendment of certain Acts contained in Schedule IV.*—On and from the date of commencement of this Act, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 (26 of 1973) and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) shall stand amended in the manner provided in Schedule IV.

31. *Power to make rules.*—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, and subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

(a) the manner of allocation of Schedule I coal mines by way of public auction and details of fees under sub-section (1) of section 4 ;

(b) the terms and conditions for granting reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease and the manner and conditions of competitive bidding under sub-section (2) of section 4 ;

(c) norms to become eligible to bid in an auction and the amount of investment in respect of a company having a coal linkage under sub-section (3) of section 4 ;

(d) the period within which the payment of additional levy by the prior allottee under sub-section (4) of section 4 ;

(e) the allotment order to make allocations to a Government company or corporation under sub-section (1) of section 5 ;

(f) the powers of the nominated authority under sub-section (1) of section 6 ;

(g) the manner of auction or allotment of Schedule I coal mines and execution of the vesting or allotment orders under sub-section (4) of section 6 ;

(h) the salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the nominated authority and other officers and staff under sub-section (6) of section 6 ;

(i) the manner of notifying the particulars of Schedule I coal mines to be auctioned and furnishing of required information by the prior allottees under sub-section (1) of section 8 ;

(j) the manner of conducting auction and drawing of a vesting order under sub-section (3) of section 8 ;

(k) determination of floor price by the nominated authority under sub-section (5) of section 8 ;

(l) the form and manner of furnishing of bank guarantee and the time within which such furnishing of bank guarantee under sub-section (6) of section 8 ;

(m) the manner of disbursement of priority payments under section 9 ;

(n) the manner of establishing title of movable property by the prior allottee or third party who has a contract with the prior allottee for the movable property under the first proviso to sub-section (5) of section 10 ;

(o) the manner of receiving compensation from the sale proceeds of the movable property under the second proviso to sub-section (5) of section 10 ;

(p) the manner in which the secured creditor paid out of the compensation in respect of any prior allottee under sub-section (2) of section 12 ;

(q) the manner of collection of additional levy by the Central Government from the prior allottees of Schedule II coal mines under sub-section (5) of section 14 ;

(r) the salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Commissioner of payments and other officers and staff under sub-section (4) of section 15 ;

(s) the manner of determination of compensation payable to prior allottee and the lodging of registered sale deeds with the nominated authority under sub-section (1) of section 16 ;

(t) the method of determination of compensation for mine infrastructure in relation to Schedule I and its reflection in the statutorily audited balance sheet under sub-section (2) of section 16 ;

(u) the manner of transfer of the management and operation of any Schedule II coal mines by the designated custodian under sub-section (6) of section 19 ;

(v) the manner of exercising and discharging the rights, liabilities and obligations by the designated custodian under sub-section (7) of section 19 ;

(w) the manner of providing agreements or arrangements for optimum utilisation of coal mine for specified end-uses under sub-section (1) of section 20 ;

(x) the manner of usage of coal mine by a successful bidder or allottee for any of its plants under sub-section (2) of section 20 ;

(y) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made and every notification issued by the Central Government, under this Act, shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or notification, or both Houses agree that the rule or notification should not be made, the rule or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be ; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification.

32. Power to remove difficulties.—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the *Official Gazette*, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty :

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

33. Repeal and saving.—(1) The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2014 (Ord. 7 of 2014) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance, shall, without prejudice to the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 25th August 2014 and its order dated 24th September 2014 passed in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012, be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

SCHEDULE I
[See section 3(1)(p)]

Sr. No. (1)	Name of Coal Mine/Block (2)	Name of Prior Allottee (3)	State where Coal Mine/Block Located (4)
1	Tadicherla-I	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Telangana
2	Anesttipali	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Telangana
3	Punkula-Chilka	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Telangana
4	Penagaddppa	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Telangana
5	Namchik Namphuk	Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Dev. and Trading Corporation.	Arunachal Pradesh
6	Sayang	AES Chhattisgarh Energy Pvt. Ltd	Chhattisgarh
7	Rajgamar Dipside (Deavnara)	API Ispat and Powertech Pvt. Ltd., CG Sponge Manufacturers Consortium Coalfield Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
8	Durgapur-II/ Taraimar	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
9	Datima	Binani Cement Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
10	Tara	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
11	Gare-Palma, Sector-I.	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
12	Shankarpur Bhatgaon II Extn.	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
13	Sondhia	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
14	Parsa	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Chhattisgarh
15	Vijay Central	Coal India Limited, SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
16	Gidhmuri	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Chhattisgarh
17	Paturia	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Chhattisgarh
18	Durgapur-II /Sarya.	DB Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
19	Bhaskarpara	Electrotherm (India) Ltd., Grasim Industries Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
20	West of Umaria	Sainik Finance and Industries Ltd. (Earlier Garuda Clays Ltd.).	Chhattisgarh
21	Morga II	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation	Chhattisgarh
22	Gare-Palma Sector-III.	Goa Industrial Development Corporation	Chhattisgarh
23	Madanpur South	Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Akshya Investment Pvt. Ltd., Chhattisgarh Steel and Power Ltd., Chhattisgarh Electricity Corporation Ltd., MSP Steel and Power Ltd., Chhattisgarh Captive Coal Mining Ltd. (Consortium of five Cos.).	Chhattisgarh
24	Nakia I	Ispat Godavari Ltd., Ind Agro Synergy Ltd., Shri Nakoda Ispat Ltd., Vandana Global Ltd., Shree Bajrang Power and Ispat Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
25	Nakia II	Ispat Godavari, Ind Agro Synergy, Shri Nakoda Ispat, Vandana Global Ltd., Shree Bajrang Power and Ispat Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
26	Gare-Palma- IV/4	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Chhattisgarh

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
27	Gare-Palma- IV/8	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
28	Gare-Palma-IV/2	Jindal Power Ltd. (Now Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.).	Chhattisgarh
29	Gare-Palma-IV/3	Jindal Power Ltd. (Now Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.).	Chhattisgarh
30	Gare-Palma-IV/1	Jindal Strips Limited (Now Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.).	Chhattisgarh
31	Gare-Palma-IV/6	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd., Nalwa Sponge Iron Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
32	Fatehpur East	JLD Yavatmal Energy Ltd., R.K.M. Powergen Pvt. Ltd., Visa Power Ltd., Green Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., Vandana Vidyut Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
33	Morga-I	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
34	Morga-III	Madhya Pradesh State Mineral Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
35	Morga-IV	Madhya Pradesh State Mineral Corporation Limited.	Chhattisgarh
36	Gare-Palma Sector-II	Maharashtra State Mining Corpn. Ltd. Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board.	Chhattisgarh
37	Gare-Palma-IV/5	Monet Ispat Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
38	Rajgamar Dipside (South of Phulakdih Nala)	Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd., Topworth Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
39	Talaipali	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
40	Chotia	Prakash Industries Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
41	Gare-Palma-IV/7	Raipur Alloys and Steel Ltd. (Now Sarda Energy and Mineral Limited).	Chhattisgarh
42	Parsa East	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL).	Chhattisgarh
43	Kesla North	Rathi Udyog Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
44	Kanta Basan	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL).	Chhattisgarh
45	Panchbahani	Shree Radhe Industries Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
46	Fatehpur	SKS Ispat and Power Ltd., Prakash Industries Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
47	Madanpur (North)	Ultratech Ltd., Singhal Enterprise Ltd., Nav Bharat Coalfield Ltd., Vandana Energy and Steel Pvt. Ltd., Prakash Industries Ltd., Anjani Steel Pvt. Ltd., Chhattisgarh Captive Coal Mining Ltd. (Consortium of five Co.)	Chhattisgarh
48	Brinda	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
49	Sasai	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
50	Meral	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
51	Seregarha	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd., GVK Power (Govindwal Sahib) Ltd.	Jharkhand
52	Patal East	Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd.	Jharkhand
53	Saria Koiyatand	Bihar Rajya Khanij Vikas Nigam (BRKVN) Patna.	Jharkhand
54	Macherkunda	Bihar Sponge Iron Ltd.	Jharkhand
55	Brahmadiha	Castron Technologies Ltd.	Jharkhand
56	Mahuagarhi	Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd. (CESC), Jas Infrastructure Capital Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
57	Chitarpur	Corporate Ispat Alloys Ltd.	Jharkhand
58	Saharpur Jamarpani	Damodar Valley Corporation	Jharkhand
59	Lalgarh (North)	Domco Smokeless Fuel Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
60	Parbatpur-Central	Electrosteel castings Ltd.	Jharkhand
61	Chakla	Essar Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
62	Ashok Karkatta Central	Essar Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
63	Jainagar	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC).	Jharkhand
64	Tokisud North	GVK Power (Govindwal Sahib) Ltd.	Jharkhand
65	Tubed	Hindalco Industries Ltd., Tata Power Company Ltd.	Jharkhand
66	Moitra	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Jharkhand
67	North Dhadu	Jharkhand Ispat Pvt. Ltd., Pavanjay Steel and Power Ltd., Electrosteel castings Ltd., Adhunik Alloys and Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
68	Banhardih	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	Jharkhand
69	Sugia Closed mine	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation.	Jharkhand
70	Rauta Closed mine	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation.	Jharkhand
71	Burakhap small patch	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation.	Jharkhand
72	Pindra-Debipur- Khaowatand	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Jharkhand
73	Latehar	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd..	Jharkhand
74	Patratu	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Jharkhand
75	Rabodih OCP	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Jharkhand
76	Jogeshwar and Khas Jogeshwar	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation.	Jharkhand
77	Jitpur	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
78	Amarkonda Murgadangal	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd., Gagan Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
79	Urma Paharitola	Jharkhand State Electricity Board, Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Jharkhand
80	Rohne	JSW Steel Ltd., Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd., Jai Balaji Industries Ltd.	Jharkhand
81	Gomia	Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation	Jharkhand
82	Rajhara North (Central and Eastern).	Mukund Limited, Vini Iron and Steel Udyog Limited.	Jharkhand
83	Dumri	Nilachal Iron and Power Ltd., Bajrang Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
84	Kerandari	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
85	Chhatti Bariatu	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
86	Chhati Bariatu South.	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Jharkhand

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
87	Brahmini	National Thermal Power Ltd.+ Coal India Limited JV.	Jharkhand
88	Chichro Patsimal	National Thermal Power Ltd.+ Coal India Limited JV.	Jharkhand
89	Pachwara Central	Punjab State Electricity Board	Jharkhand
90	Mahal	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	Jharkhand
91	Tenughat-Jhirki	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	Jharkhand
92	Bundu	Rungta Mines Limited	Jharkhand
93	Mednirai	Rungta Mines Limited, Kohinoor Steel (P) Ltd.	Jharkhand
94	Choritand Tiliaya	Rungta Mines Limited, Sunflag Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	Jharkhand
95	Sitanala	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Jharkhand
96	Ganeshpur	Tata Steel Ltd., Adhunik Thermal Energy	Jharkhand
97	Badam	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited	Jharkhand
98	Rajbar E and D	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited	Jharkhand
99	Gondulpara	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited, Damodar Valley Corporation.	Jharkhand
100	Kotre-Basantpur	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (Now Tata Steel Ltd.)	Jharkhand
101	Pachmo	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (Now Tata Steel Ltd.)	Jharkhand
102	Lohari	Usha Martin Ltd.	Jharkhand
103	Kathautia	Usha Martin Ltd.	Jharkhand
104	Pachwara North	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	Jharkhand
105	Suliyari	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation.	Madhya Pradesh
106	Bikram	Birla Corporation Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
107	Gotitoria (East)	BLA Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
108	Gotitoria (West)	BLA Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
109	Mahan	Essar Power Ltd., Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
110	Mandla North	Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
111	Urtan North	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd., Monet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
112	Thesgora-B/ Rudrapuri	Kamal Sponge Steel and Power Limited, Revati Cement P. Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
113	Amelia	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Madhya Pradesh
114	Amelia (North)	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Madhya Pradesh
115	Mandla South	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
116	Dongeri Tal-II	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MPSMC).	Madhya Pradesh
117	Marki Barka	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation (MPSMC).	Madhya Pradesh
118	Semaria/Piparia	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation (MPSMC).	Madhya Pradesh
119	Bicharpur	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MPSMC).	Madhya Pradesh
120	Tandsi-III and Tandsi -III (Extn.).	Mideast Integrated Steels Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
121	Sahapur East	National Mineral Dev Corp.	Madhya Pradesh
122	Sahapur West	National Mineral Dev. Corp.	Madhya Pradesh
123	Mara II Mahan	NCT of Delhi, Delhi, Haryana Power Generation Corp. Ltd. (HPGCL).	Madhya Pradesh
124	Sial Ghoghri	Prism Cement Limited	Madhya Pradesh
125	Brahampuri	Pushp Steel and Mining Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
126	Rawanwara North.	SKS Ispat Limited	Madhya Pradesh
127	Bander	AMR Iron and Steels Pvt. Ltd., Century Textiles and Industries Ltd., J.K.Cement Ltd.	Maharashtra
128	Marki Mangli-I	B. S. Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra
129	Takli-Jena-Bellora (North) and Takli-Jena-Bellora (South).	Central Collieries Co. Ltd. and Lloyds Metals and Engineering Ltd.	Maharashtra
130	Dahegaon/Makard hokra-IV.	IST Steel and Power Ltd., Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd., Lafarge India Pvt. Ltd.	Maharashtra
131	Gondkhari	Maharashtra Seamless Limited, Dhariwal Infrastructure (P) Ltd., Kesoram Industries Ltd.	Maharashtra
132	Marki-Zari-Jamani-Adkoli.	Maharashtra State Mining Corpn. Ltd.	Maharashtra
133	Lohara (East)	Murli Industries Ltd., Grace Industries Ltd.	Maharashtra
134	Khappa and Extn.	Sunflag Iron and Steel Ltd., Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd.	Maharashtra
135	Lohara West Extn.	Adani Power Ltd.	Maharashtra
136	Warora West (North)	Bhatia International Ltd.	Maharashtra
137	Kosar Dongergaon.	Chaman Metaliks Ltd.	Maharashtra
138	Warora (West) Southern Part.	Fieldmining and Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra
139	Chinora	Fieldmining and Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra
140	Majra	Gondwana Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra
141	Nerad Malegaon	Gupta Metalics and Power Ltd., Gupta Coalfields and Washeries Ltd.	Maharashtra
142	Baranj -I	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
143	Baranj - II	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
144	Baranj - III	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
145	Baranj - IV	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
146	Kiloni	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
147	Manora Deep	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
148	Agarzari	Maharashtra State Mining Corporation Limited (MSMCL).	Maharashtra
149	Warora	Maharashtra State Mining Corporation Limited (MSMCL).	Maharashtra
150	Bhandak West	Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd.	Maharashtra
151	Marki Mangli-II	Shree Veerangana Steel Limited.	Maharashtra
152	Marki Mangli-III	Shree Veerangana Steel Limited.	Maharashtra

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
153	Marki Mangli-IV	Shree Veerangana Steel Limited.	Maharashtra
154	Belgaon	Sunflag Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	Maharashtra
155	Mandakini B	Assam Mineral Dev. Corporation Ltd., Meghalaya Mineral Dev. Corp., Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.	Odisha
156	New Patrapara	Bhusan Steel and Strips Ltd., Adhunik Metaliks Ltd., Deepak Steel and Power Ltd., Adhunik Corp. Ltd., Odisha Sponge Iron Ltd., SMC Power Generation Ltd., Sree Metaliks Ltd., Visa Steel Ltd.	Odisha
157	Bijahan	Bhushan Ltd., Shri Mahavir Ferro Alloys Pvt. Limited.	Odisha
158	Jamkhani	Bhushan Ltd.	Odisha
159	Naini	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, Puducherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation Limited.	Odisha
160	Mahanadi	Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited, Maharashtra State Electricity Board.	Odisha
161	Machhakata	Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited, Maharashtra State Electricity Board.	Odisha
162	Talabira-I	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Odisha
163	Ramchandi Promotion Block	Jindal Steel and Power Limited	Odisha
164	Utkal B I	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Odisha
165	Baitarni West	Kerala State Electricity Board, Odisha Hydro Power Corp., Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd.	Odisha
166	Talabira II and III	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Odisha
167	Utkal-A	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), JSW Steels Ltd., Jindal Thermal Power Comp. Ltd., Jindal Stainless Steels Ltd., Shyam DRI Ltd.	Odisha
168	Utkal-B2	Monet Ispat Ltd.	Odisha
169	Mandakini	Monet Ispat Energy Ltd., Jindal Photo Ltd., Tata Power Company Ltd.	Odisha
170	Utkal 'E'	National Aluminium Corporation	Odisha
171	Dulanga	National Thermal Power Corporation	Odisha
172	Utkal-D	Odisha Mining Corporation	Odisha
173	Nuagaon Telisahi	Odisha Mining Corporation, Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development (APMDC)	Odisha
174	Manoharpur	Odisha Power Generation Corporation	Odisha
175	Dipside Manoharpur	Odisha Power Generation Corporation	Odisha
176	Radhikapur (West)	Rungta Mines Limited, OCL India Ltd., Ocean Ispat Ltd.	Odisha
177	Rampia	Sterlite Energy Ltd., (IPP), GMR Energy Ltd. (IPP), Arcelor Mittal India Ltd. (CPP), Lanco Group Ltd. (IPP), Navbharat Power Pvt. Ltd. (IPP), Reliance Energy Ltd. (IPP)	Odisha

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
178	Dip Side of Rampia	Sterlite Energy Ltd., (IPP), GMR Energy (IPP), Arcelor Mittal India Ltd. (CPP), Lanco Group Ltd. (IPP), Navbharat Power Pvt. Ltd. (IPP), Reliance Energy Ltd. (IPP)	Odisha
179	North of Arkhapal Srirampur	Strategic Energy Technology Systems Limited (SETSL).	Odisha
180	Radhikapur (East)	Tata Sponge Iron Ltd, Scaw Industries Ltd., SPS Sponge Iron Ltd.	Odisha
181	Chendipada	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidut Utpadan Limited, Chattishgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Maharashtra State Power Generation Corporation Ltd.	Odisha
182	Chendipada-II	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidut Utpadan Limited, Chattishgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Maharashtra State Power Generation Corporation Ltd.	Odisha
183	Utkal-C	Utkal Coal Ltd. (formerly ICCL)	Odisha
184	Biharinath	Bankura DRI Mining Manufacturers Co. Pvt. Ltd.	West Bengal
185	Andal East	Bhushan Steel Ltd., Jai Balaji Industries Ltd., Rashmi Cement Ltd.	West Bengal
186	Barjora (North)	Damodar Valley Corporation	West Bengal
187	Kagra Joydev	Damodar Valley Corporation	West Bengal
188	Kasta (East)	Damodar Valley Corporation	West Bengal
189	Gourangdih ABC	Himachal EMTA Power Ltd., JSW Steel Ltd.	West Bengal
190	Moiram-Madhujore	Ramsarup Lohh Udyog Ltd., Adhunik Corporation Ltd., Uttam Galva Steels Ltd., Howrah Gases Ltd., Vikas Metal and Power Ltd., ACC Ltd.	West Bengal
191	Sarisatolli	Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd.	West Bengal
192	Ardhagram	Sova Ispat Limited, Jaibalaji Sponge Ltd.	West Bengal
193	Tara (West)	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC)	West Bengal
194	Gangaramchak	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal
195	Barjora	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal
196	Gangaramchak-Bhadulia	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC)	West Bengal
197	Tara (East)	West Bengal State Electricity Board	West Bengal
198	Jaganathpur B	West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corp.	West Bengal
199	Sitarampur	West Bengal Mineral Dev and Trading Corp. Ltd.	West Bengal
200	Trans Damodar	West Bengal Mineral Dev. and Trading Corp. Ltd.	West Bengal
201	Ichhapur	West Bengal Mineral Dev. and Trading Corp. Ltd.	West Bengal
202	Kulti	West Bengal Mineral Dev. and Trading Corp. Ltd.	West Bengal
203	Jaganathpur A	West Bengal Mineral Dev. and Trading Corp. Ltd.	West Bengal
204	East of Damogoria (Kalyaneshwari)	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal

SCHEDULE II

[See section 3(1)(g)]

Sl. No. (1)	Name of Coal Mine/Block (2)	Name of Prior Allottee (3)	State where Coal Mine/Block Located (4)
1	Namchik Namphuk	Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Dev. and Trading Corporation	Arunachal Pradesh
2	Gare-Palma-IV/4	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
3	Gare-Palma-IV/2	Jindal Power Ltd. (Now Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.)	Chhattisgarh
4	Gare-Palma-IV/3	Jindal Power Ltd. (Now Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.)	Chhattisgarh
5	Gare-Palma-IV/1	Jindal Strips Limited (Now Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.)	Chhattisgarh
6	Gare-Palma-IV/5	Monet Ispat Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
7	Chotia	Prakash Industries Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
8	Gare-Palma-IV/7	Raipur Alloys and Steel Ltd. (Now Sarda Energy and Mineral Limited)	Chhattisgarh
9	Parsa East	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL)	Chhattisgarh
10	Kanta Basan	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL)	Chhattisgarh
11	Parbatpur-Central	Electrosteel Castings Ltd.	Jharkhand
12	Tokisud North	GVK Power (Govindwal Sahib) Ltd.	Jharkhand
13	Pachwara Central	Punjab State Electricity Board	Jharkhand
14	Kathautia	Usha Martin Ltd.	Jharkhand
15	Pachwara North	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	Jharkhand
16	Gotitoria (East)	BLA Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
17	Gotitoria (West)	BLA Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
18	Mandla North	Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
19	Amelia (North)	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Madhya Pradesh
20	Bicharpur	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MPSMC).	Madhya Pradesh
21	Sial Ghoghri	Prism Cement Limited	Madhya Pradesh
22	Marki Mangli-I	B.S. Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra
23	Baranj - I	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
24	Baranj - II	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
25	Baranj - III	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
26	Baranj - IV	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
27	Kiloni	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
28	Manora Deep	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd. (KPCL)	Maharashtra
29	Marki Mangli-II	Shree Veerangana Steels Limited.	Maharashtra
30	Marki Mangli-III	Shree Veerangana Steels Limited.	Maharashtra
31	Belgaon	Sunflag Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	Maharashtra
32	Talabira-I	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Odisha
33	Barjora (North)	Damodar Valley Corporation	West Bengal
34	Kagra Joydev	Damodar Valley Corporation	West Bengal
35	Sarisatoli	Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd.	West Bengal
36	Ardhagram	Sova Ispat Limited, Jai Balaji Sponge Ltd.	West Bengal
37	Tara (West)	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal
38	Gangaramchak	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal
39	Barjora	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal
40	Gangaramchak-Bhadulia	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC).	West Bengal
41	Tara (East)	West Bengal State Electricity Board	West Bengal
42	Trans Damodar	West Bengal Mineral Dev. and Trading Corp. Ltd.	West Bengal

SCHEDULE III

[See section 3(1)(r)]

Sr. No. (1)	Name of Coal Mine/Block (2)	Name of Prior Allottee (3)	State where Coal Mine/Block Located (4)
1	Durgapur-II/Taraimar	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
2	Durgapur-II /Sarya	DB Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
3	Gare-Palma Sector-III	Goa Industrial Development Corporation	Chhattisgarh
4	Gare-Palma IV/8	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
5	Talaipali	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
6	Chatti Bariatu	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
7	Mahan	Essar Power Ltd., Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
8	Mandla South	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
9	Dongeri Tal-II	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MPSMC).	Madhya Pradesh
10	Kosar Dongergaon	Chaman Metaliks Ltd.	Maharashtra
11	Nerad Malegaon	Gupta Metalics and Power Ltd., Gupta Coalfields and Washeries Ltd.	Maharashtra
12	Marki Mangli-IV	Shree Veerangana Steel Limited.	Maharashtra
13	Jamkhani	Bhushan Ltd.	Odisha
14	Utkal B 1	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Odisha
15	Utkal-B2	Monet Ispat Ltd.	Odisha
16	Mandakini	Monet Ispat Energy Ltd., Jindal Photo Ltd., Tata Power Company Ltd.	Odisha
17	Utkal-C	Utkal Coal Ltd. (formerly ICCL)	Odisha
18	Brinda	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
19	Sasai	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
20	Meral	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
21	Moitra	Jayaswal Neco Ltd	Jharkhand
22	Jitpur	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
23	Rohne	JSW Steel Ltd., Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd., Jai Balaji Industries Ltd.	Jharkhand
24	Dumri	Nilachal Iron and Power Ltd., Bajrang Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand
25	Kerandari	National Thermal Power Ltd.	Jharkhand
26	Sitanala	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Jharkhand
27	Ganeshpur	Tata Steel Ltd., Adhunik Thermal Energy	Jharkhand
28	Badam	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited	Jharkhand
29	Tara	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Chhattisgarh
30	Lohari	Usha Martin Ltd.	Jharkhand
31	Dulanga	National Thermal Power Corporation	Odisha
32	Manoharpur	Odisha Power Generation Corporation	Odisha

SCHEDULE IV

(See section 28)

PART A

THE COAL MINES (NATIONALISATION) ACT, 1973

(26 of 1973)

1. *Amendment of section 1A.*—In the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 (herein referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (1) of section 1A, after the word and figure “section 3”, the word, figure and letter, “section 3A” shall be inserted.

2. *Insertion of new section 3A.*—After section 3 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

‘3A. *Mining operation by company and others.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, any person being—

(a) a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or between the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or any other company incorporated in India ; or

(b) a company or a joint venture company formed by two or more companies, may carry on coal mining operations in India, in any form either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be.

(2) The Central Government may, with a view to rationalise such coal mines so as to ensure the coordinated and scientific development and utilisation of coal resources consistent with the growing requirements of the country, from time to time, prescribe—

(i) the coal mines or coal bearing areas and their location ;

(ii) the minimum size of the coal mine or coal bearing areas ;

(iii) such other conditions,

which in the opinion of that Government may be necessary for the purpose of coal mining operations or mining for sale by a company.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, “company” means a company as defined in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013.’. (18 of 2013).

3. *Amendment of section 34.*—In section 34 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(aa) the coal mines or coal bearing areas and their location, the minimum size of the coal mine or coal bearing areas, and such other conditions which may be necessary for the purpose of coal mining operations including mining for sale by a company under sub-section (2) of section 3A.”.

PART B

THE MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1957

(67 of 1957)

1. *Substitution of new section for section 11A.*—In the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (herein referred to as the principal Act), for section 11 A, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

‘11A. *Granting of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government may, for the purpose of granting reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of any

area containing coal or lignite, select any of the following companies through auction by competitive bidding, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, namely :—

(a) a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or between the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or any other company incorporated in India ; or

(b) a company or a joint venture company formed by two or more companies, that carry on coal mining operations in India, in any form either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the permit, prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be.

(2) The Central Government may, with a view to rationalise coal and lignite mines referred to in sub-section (1), so as to ensure the coordinated and scientific development and utilisation of resources consistent with the growing requirements of the country, from time to time, prescribe—

(i) the details of mines and their location ;

(ii) the minimum size of such mines ;

(iii) such other conditions,

which in the opinion of that Government may be necessary for the purpose of mining operations or mining for sale by a company.

(3) The State Government shall grant such reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of any area containing coal or lignite to such company as selected through auction by competitive bidding or otherwise under this section :

Provided that the auction by competitive bidding under this section shall not be applicable to an area containing coal or lignite—

(a) where such area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or between the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be ;

(b) where such area is considered for allocation to a company or corporation or that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, “company” means a company as defined in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013).’.

2. Amendment of section 13.—In section 13 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), for clause (d), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(d) the terms and conditions of auction by competitive bidding, the details of mines and their location, the minimum size of such mines and such other conditions which may be necessary for the purpose of coal mining operations including mining for sale by a company under sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 11A.”.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 30th March 2015/Chaitra 9, 1937 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 30th March 2015, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

(No. 12 of 2015)

[30th March 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

2. Amendment of section 22.—In the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 (6 of 2014) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 22, in sub-section (1), for the figures and words “50 members in the Legislative Council of Andhra Pradesh”, the figures and words “58 members in the Legislative Council of Andhra Pradesh” shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 23.—In section 23 of the principal Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the figures and words “50 seats in the Legislative Council of Andhra Pradesh”, the figures and words “58 seats in the Legislative Council of Andhra Pradesh” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (2), in clause (i), for sub-clause (a), the following sub-clause shall be substituted, namely :—

‘(a) for the existing entry 1, the following entry shall be substituted, namely :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
“ 1. Andhra Pradesh	58	20	5	5	20	8” ;’.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 13th May 2015/Vaisakha 23, 1937 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 12th May 2015, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

(No. 14 of 2015)

[12th May 2015.]

An Act further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Amendment of section 3.—In the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 (21 of 1976) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 3, in sub-section (3), in clause (c),—

(a) the words “during the first five years of its functioning” shall be omitted;

(b) the proviso shall be omitted.

3. Amendment of section 5.—In the principal Act, in section 5,—

(a) for the words “five crores of rupees divided into five lakhs of fully paid-up shares of one hundred rupees each”, the words “two thousand crore of rupees, divided into two hundred crore of fully paid-up shares of ten rupees each” shall be substituted;

(b) in the proviso, for the words “twenty-five lakhs of rupees, and the shares shall be, in all cases, fully paid-up shares of one hundred rupees each”, the words “one crore of rupees, and the shares shall be, in all cases, fully paid-up shares of ten rupees each” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 6.—In the principal Act, in section 6,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words “twenty-five lakhs of rupees or exceed one crore of rupees”, the words “one crore of rupees” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (2), the following provisos shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that in case the Regional Rural Bank raises its capital from sources other than the Central Government or the State Government or the Sponsor Bank, the shareholding of the Central Government and the Sponsor Bank shall not be less than fifty-one per cent.:

Provided further that the Central Government shall consult the concerned State Government if the level of shareholding in the Regional Rural Bank of such State Government is reduced below fifteen per cent.”;

(c) after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A) The Central Government may, in consultation with the Sponsor Bank and the State Government, by notification, either raise or reduce the limit of shareholding of the Central Government, the State Government or the Sponsor Bank specified in sub-section (2) :

Provided that the Central Government shall consult the concerned State Government before reducing the limit of shareholding of such State Government.”;

(d) in sub-section (3), after the words, brackets and figure “as is specified in sub-section (2)”, the words, brackets, figure and letter “or, as the case may be, notified by the Central Government under sub-section (2A)” shall be inserted.

5. Amendment of section 9.—In the principal Act, in section 9, in sub-section (1),—

(a) in clause (a), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that no person shall be nominated as a director, if he is already a director on the Board of any other Regional Rural Bank;”;

(b) after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(f) such number of directors elected by the shareholders other than the directors nominated by the Central Government, the State Government, the Sponsor Bank and other institutions owned or controlled by the Central Government or the State Government, whose names are entered in the register of shareholders of the Regional Rural Bank at least ninety days before the date of the meeting in which the election of directors takes place on the following basis, namely:—

(i) where the total amount of equity share capital issued to such shareholders is ten per cent. or less of the total issued equity capital, one director shall be elected from such shareholders;

(ii) where the total amount of equity share capital issued to such shareholders is more than ten per cent. but less than twenty-five per cent. of the total issued equity capital, two directors shall be elected from the shareholders including the shareholders referred to in sub-clause (i);

(iii) where the total amount of equity share capital issued to such shareholders is twenty-five per cent. or more of the total issued equity capital, three directors shall be elected from the shareholders including shareholders referred to in sub-clauses (i) and (ii).”;

(c) after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(3) The Central Government may appoint an officer of the Central Government on the Board of Regional Rural Banks, if it considers necessary for the purposes of effective functioning of the Regional Rural Banks.”.

6. Substitution of new section for section 10.—In the principal Act, for section 10, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“**10. Term of office of director.**—A director nominated under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 9 shall hold office during the pleasure of the Central Government and for such term, not exceeding three years, from the date on which he assumes his office, as the Central Government may specify at the time of his nomination and shall be eligible for renomination :

Provided that no such director shall hold office either continuously or intermittently for a period exceeding six years.”.

7. Amendment of section 19.—In the principal Act, in section 19, in sub-section (1), for the figures, letters and words “31st day of December”, the figures, letters and words “31st day of March” shall be substituted.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,
Secretary to the Government of India.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

N. J. JAMADAR,
I/c. Secretary (Legislation) to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.

LAW AND JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT

Madam Cama Marg, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032, dated the 6th October 2015

No. 1672/B.—The following Ordinance promulgated by the President is hereby republished for general information :—

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

New Delhi, the 22nd September 2015/Bhadra 31, 1937 (Saka)

THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (AMENDMENT) SECOND ORDINANCE, 2015

(No. 7 of 2015)

Promulgated by the President in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India.

An Ordinance further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

WHEREAS the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 was promulgated by the President on the 15th day of June, 2015 ;

AND WHEREAS the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015 to replace the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 has been passed by the House of the People and is pending in the Council of States ;

AND WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action ;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance :—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Ordinance may be called the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2015.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 15th day of June 2015.

2. Amendment of section 6.—In the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (26 of 1881) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 6,—

(i) in *Explanation I*, for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

‘(a) “a cheque in the electronic form” means a cheque drawn in electronic form by using any computer resource and signed in a secure system with digital signature (with or without biometrics signature) and asymmetric crypto system” or with electronic signature, as the case may be ;’

(ii) after *Explanation II*, the following *Explanation* shall be inserted, namely :—

Explanation III.— For the purposes of this section, the expressions “asymmetric crypto system”, “computer resource”, “digital signature”, “electronic form” and “electronic signature” shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000).’

3. Amendment of section 142.—In the principal Act, section 142 shall be numbered as sub-section (1) thereof and after sub-section (1) as so numbered, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

“(2) The offence under section 138 shall be inquired into and tried only by a court within whose local jurisdiction,—

(a) if the cheque is delivered for collection through an account, the branch of the bank where the payee or holder in due course, as the case may be, maintains the account, is situated ; or

(b) if the cheque is presented for payment by the payee or holder in due course otherwise through an account, the branch of the drawee bank where the drawer maintains the account, is situated.

Explanation.—For the purposes of clause (a), where a cheque is delivered for collection at any branch of the bank of the payee or holder in due course, then, the cheque shall be deemed to have been delivered to the branch of the bank in which the payee or holder in due course, as the case may be, maintains the account.”.

4. *Insertion of new section.*—In the principal Act, after section 142, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“142A. *Validation for transfer of pending cases.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or any judgment, decree, order or directions of any court, all cases transferred to the court having jurisdiction under sub-section (2) of section 142, as amended by the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 (6 of 2015), shall be deemed to have been transferred under this Ordinance, as if that sub-section had been in force at all material times.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) of section 142 or sub-section (1), where the payee or the holder in due course, as the case may be, has filed a complaint against the drawer of a cheque in the court having jurisdiction under sub-section (2) of section 142 or the case has been transferred to that court under sub-section (1), and such complaint is pending in that court, all subsequent complaints arising out of section 138 against the same drawer shall be filed before the same court irrespective of whether those cheques were delivered for collection or presented for payment within the territorial jurisdiction of that court.

(3) If on the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, more than one prosecution filed by the same payee or holder in due course, as the case may be, against the same drawer of cheques is pending before different courts, upon the said fact having been brought to the notice of the court, such court shall transfer the case to the court having jurisdiction under sub-section (2) of section 142, as amended by the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 (Ord. 6 of 2015), before which the first case was filed and is pending, as if that sub-section had been in force at all material times.”.

PRANAB MUKHERJEE,

President.

DR. SANJAY SINGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

N. J. JAMADAR,

I/c. Secretary (Legislation) to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.